Correspondence 1890
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller

Coe College

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Sarah Orne Jewett Press

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this Text

The Internet Archive

and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html
Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister, often addressed as O.P.

Sarah Orne Jewett. Jewett's various nicknames appear often in these letters. She often signs herself Queen and Queen of Sheba or Sheby, and she is called Sadie, Pin, Pinny, Owl and Owlet.

Caroline (Carrie, Taddy) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: (1836-1907), author and editor of *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett also wrote often to his wife, **Lilian Woodman Aldrich** (1841-1927).

Louisa Loring Dresel (1864-1958), American painter, photographer, traveler, a neighbor of Annie Fields.

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), author and eventually Jewett's domestic partner. Jewett often refers to her as A.F. During their travels in Europe during this year, Fields and Jewett were accompanied by Fields's Irish-born employee, **Liza / Lisa.**

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly*, a mentor to Jewett.

Celia Laighton Thaxter: (1835-1894), American author and artist.

Sarah de St. Prix Wyman Whitman: (1842-1904), American artist and designer of several Jewett book covers.

John Greenleaf Whittier: (1807-1892), American poet, frequently called "Thy Friend." Often mentioned in letters to and from him are members of his family: Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin **Gertrude Cartland** (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier traveled together in summers, and he lived in their home at Newburyport, MA, for most of his last fifteen winters. **Phebe Woodman** (1869-1953), adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921). Whittier's nephew **James Lewis Caldwell** (1839-1895) married Adelaide McClung (1843-1902). **Elizabeth Hussey** (1843-1909) was the daughter of Whittier's brother **Matthew** and namesake of his sister. She married Samuel T. Pickard, editor of the Portland *Transcript* and, later, biographer of Whittier. See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, p. 337, *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* by Richard Cary.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

1 Mo 6 [*1890*]*

My dear friend

I am glad thee did not get the "grippe" by coming to Amesbury and making my birth-day which I dreaded so much a very happy one. Of course thee cannot realize how much that visit was to me, nor how pleasantly it lingers in my memory through these dark winter days.*

I hope my adopted daughter Sarah* is

[*Page 2*]

with thee now, and that you are both free from the prevailing epidemic. I have a dread of the "grippe" for I have a distinct memory of it as it treated me in 1841.*

There seems a prospect for an ice-storm today! The ice is accumulating on the trees, and there may be a repetition of the storm of two or three years ago. Every thing looks grey and ghastly out of doors, and in doors I can read nothing,

[*Page 3*]

write nothing, do nothing.

I had the pleasure of sending to Gen Armstrong at Christmas with my annual subscription, $1,000 which a friend placed in my hand. I wish our friend could be relieved from the task of raising money by a hundred such donations.*

I had a letter from U. S. Minister Loring at Lisbon* yesterday. He speaks of the Ex Emperor as looking very old and sad, and dwelling upon the past with pathetic devotion. "He speaks," Mr. Loring says "of you and

[*Page 4*]

Longfellow and Agassiz* as if you had been his brothers."

Tell Sarah that I made Phebe* happy by a set of her books for Xmas. I owe her a letter in return for her kind one from Berwick. My love to her. I think of you both with grateful affection.

Thy old and ever faithful friend

John G Whittier

I am told the enclosed paper is <u>green</u>, but I am not sure for red & green are alike to me.

Notes

1890: Pickard writes in the notes for his transcription: "Whittier dated the letter as 1889, which is obviously incorrect since he refers to the gift of $1,000 for General Armstrong which he received in December 1889 and to Loring's letter which was sent December 22, 1889."

winter days: See Whittier to Fields of 13 December 1889, where he writes of dreading his approaching birthday.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett

1841: Pickard notes that Whittier had suffered a "slight case of the grippe" in the winter of 1841.

such donations: Pickard writes in the notes for his transcription: "Algernon P. Nichols of Haverhill had sent him the check. General Armstrong's administration of the Hampton Institute had been under attack during 1889 over the supposed severe treatment accorded Indian students. Armstrong had printed a public letter defending his actions and Whittier wrote a letter to the Boston *Journal* on June 22, 1889, also praising Armstrong."

The Hampton Institute, founded in 1861 to educate former African American slaves, is now known as Hampton University. The first principal of the school was General Samuel Chapman Armstrong (1839 - 1893).

U. S. Minister Loring at Lisbon: American physician and politician George Bailey Loring (1817-1891) was United States Minister to Portugal 1889-1890.

Dom Pedro II (1825-1891) was the second and final monarch of Brazil. He became quite popular in the United States for his democratic and liberal ideas and policies.

A penciled "X" appears at the beginning of this paragraph.

Longfellow and Agassiz: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Swiss-American scientist Jean Louis Agassiz (1807-1873), husband of Jewett correspondent, Elizabeth Cabot Cary Agassiz. Key to Correspondents.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman. See Whittier entry above in Jewett's Principal Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4846. This letter has been transcribed previously by John B. Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Editors of *Century Magazine*

148 Charles Street Boston*

9 January

[*1890*]

Editors of The Century

Gentlemen

I should very much like to have the manuscript of my story In Dark New England Days,* or if that was not kept when the type-writer copy was made will you kindly send the copy itself to me for a few days? It will perhaps

[*Page 2*]

be safest to send it by express, to the above address, care of Mrs. J. T. Fields.*

I hope that I am not giving you unwarranted trouble, and send my best thanks in advance.Pray believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Boston: It is not clear whether this underlining is by Jewett or penciled in another hand. In pencil to the left of this line, probably in another hand: "Sent Jan 10/90".

Days: "In Dark New England Days" appeared in *Century Magazine* in October 1890.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury

Jan. 10 1890*

My dear friends

I was glad to get thy letter this bitter snow-stormy day. That green rose came from Florida. I half suspect it was manufactured like Barnum's Wooly Horse and Mermaid.* I am sorry Phebe*

[*Page 2*]

failed to appear. I am sure she would have rejoiced to accept thy invitation if it had depended on herself. At any rate I thank thee for it and I know she does. Ah! I wish I could take the benefit of thy kindness and go to 148 Charles.* But, I am quite unable, but I am happy to think of it and imagine myself there. God bless you & keep you safe from "la grippe". Love to you both exceedingly.

J.G.W.

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

I enclose a [*unrecognized word*] of [mine *?*] which perhaps you have not seen.

Notes

1890: Uncharacteristically, Whittier has written across the fold on the back side of this sheet, so that what would normally be pages 2 and 3 on half sheets become a full-sheet page 2.

Barnum's Wooly Horse and Mermaid: American showman Phineas Taylor Barnum (1810 - 1891) exhibited The Fiji Mermaid in his American Museum. It consisted of the head and torso of a monkey sewn to the tail of a fish. The "Wooley Horse" was a "small maneless horse with wooly hair," that Barnum displayed as a "new specimen" of horse supposedly collected by American explorer John C. Frémont (1813-1890) during his Sierra Nevada survey expedition in the American West (1843-4).

Phebe: Phebe Woodman. See Whittier entry above in Jewett's Principal Correspondents.

148 Charles: Fields's Boston address.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4712.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Tuesday

[*28 January 1890*]*

Loulie

I am sorry to say I must give up the pleasure of the luncheon and of seeing you and the sketches, (the luncheon should not have been mentioned first!) Mrs. Fields has had another cold and now we are ordered South ignominiously by the doctor ^(to go tomorrow night)^ — There is a very

[*Page 2*]

[*omitted* great *?*] deal for her to stay at home for, but it is no use to go on as she has been doing lately, and we hope that we need not stay very long as it is far safer to come North in February than in April. We both like St Augustine* ever so much so it is not so bad as it might be. Do send a line some day and will not Mrs. Dresel too? it would be such a joy to A. F.

Yours ever faithfully

S.O.J.

[*Page 3*]

The address is

The Ponce de Leon*

St. Augustine Florida

Notes

28 January 1890: This date does not appear on the manuscript, but on the cataloging cover page. As 28 January fell on a Tuesday and because it is known that Jewett and Fields were in St. Augustine, FL in February and early March of 1890, this date seems probable.

St. Augustine: Jewett and Fields spent about 6 weeks in Florida in 1890.

Ponce de Leon: Jewett and Fields had enjoyed their stay in this newly constructed winter tourist hotel in St. Augustine during their winter trip in 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

St. Augustine 1 February [*1890*]*

Hotel Ponce de Leon*

Dear Loulie

I thank you so much and so does Mrs. Fields for the lovely violets you brought the day we came away. I wish that I could have seen you before I left (and indeed we did not mean to start until Thursday night, which would have kept me from missing the luncheon with you.) but I found that we could not get the stateroom we needed in the "through car" unless we

[*Page 2*]

grabbed it next day, which we did! You can imagine what a scurry it gave us to get ready!

— I am now sitting, as writers from Southern hotels always say, "by an open window, with a bouquet of roses"! I wish indeed that you could see this lovely place, an ancient Spanish palace in good repair is what I call it. My window looks out into the great courtyard with its fountain and palms and magnolia and all their kindred, mixed with the familiar nasturtiums and bright red geraniums. Yesterday I saw a tall white hollyhock

[*Page 3*]

in one of the gardens which gave me a Rip van Winkle* feeling as if I had slept over into August.

Dear A. F. already feels better and looks better and hardly coughs at all — I think the change has done her a great deal of good if it were only to make her forget the crowd of duties and engagements and so little strength to meet them with. It is quite impossible to be energetic here in the same way as at the North, and yet you never forget that it is sea air and there is a delicious freshness in it that cannot be described. I feel like writing

[*Page 4*]

here just as I did before, and so I hope to get my work well along.

The stories I promised long ago for "winter numbers" are one and all dreadfully behind hand. I begin to think that coming away was a great thing on my part —

I have been thinking what a good sketch you would make and how much material you would find here. It is a wonderful place for artists — more foreign than a great many towns abroad and so full of color. Mrs. Fields sends love and is going to answer a [*deleted word*] from Mrs. Dresel very soon — I am always affectionately

S.O.J.

You might kindly write a little letter someday !!!

Notes

1890 ... Ponce de Leon: Jewett and Fields had enjoyed their stay in this newly constructed winter tourist hotel in St. Augustine during their winter trip in 1888. The year 1890 is added by another hand to the upper left corner of page 1. Because Jewett and Fields are known to have spent about 6 weeks in Florida during February and March of 1890, this date probably is correct.

Rip Van Winkle: From the 1819 short story by the American writer Washington Irving (1783-1859), about the American who magically sleeps in the mountains for 20 years and then returns home to find his village transformed in the passage of time.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Edgar Lewis Wingate

Hotel Ponce de Leon*

St. Augustine, Florida

3 February 1890

Dear Mr. Wingate

I am afraid that the necessary delay in my receiving your note of the 28th January will make the enclosed opinion of no use to you but I take pleasure in sending it — I should be glad to send fresh readers to Mr. Lowell's fine essay,* at any rate, and I think

[*Page 2*]

in this case he has the final word.

I hope that what I have written will serve your purpose. If I have written too much, I think you had better begin with the second paragraph, but I hope that you can find space for the whole quotation — I should like very much to see the result of your work

[*Page 3*]

when it comes in print. Mrs. Fields and I are not having the paper sent regularly.

Yours very truly,

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Hotel Ponce de Leon: This line has been penciled in, possibly by Jewett.

Mr. Lowell's fine essay: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents. Richard Cary writes:

> A check of morning and evening editions of the Boston *Journal* and of the *Critic* for this period reveals no word about Lowell by Miss Jewett, so her communication did probably arrive too late to be utilized. Reference may be to Lowell's address to the Modern Language Association, published in *PMLA*, V (January 1890), 5-22, and collected in his *Latest Literary Essays and Addresses* (Boston, 1892), 131-159, as 'The Study of Modern Languages.' Here Lowell applauds the growth of modern language teaching and refutes the attitude that masterpieces could only be written in the classical languages.

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine: JEWE.1. It was originally transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

February, 1890.

Things are many and pretty dull, albeit they include much work and a little play; refusing to see folks at the studio door of mornings and bowing and bending at them of evenings (but most times declining to go where bowing and bending is in order). _____ _____ has been making aphorisms of late, on the typewriter, so that they are more than usually fundamental in their effect! and is dealing damnation out against what she calls the "deep spiritual sin of the mind-cure."*

Notes

deep spiritual sin of the mind-cure: The mind cure was a movement similar to Christian Science. Charles William Post (of Post cereals) began his career operating a mind-cure based health resort in Battle Creek, Michigan. For further information see Gail T. Parker, *The Mind Cure in New England* (1973).

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

Feb 14 1890

My dear friend,

The breath of roses and the warm Gulf winds seemed to come with thy letter. I am glad to think of you among the flowers and under the sunshine of Florida. I fancy Sarah* at her [palace *?*]

window open to the air of summer and perfumed with rose and orange bloom

[*Page 2*]

"tending her soul," as Omar Khayam* would say, to the bleak sea-side New England pastures blown over by the bitter East, with their stunted cedars, and straggling stone fences, — and a Poor House with the poverty-stricken landscape for its setting.* I am glad she has this dual power of seeing New England and Florida at the same time, and that she never loses sight of the scene she has depicted as no ~~one~~

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one else has done. I hope you both will stay where you are until May day.* You have both earned the right to sit amidst the roses, and be [ministered *?*] to, as you have so long [ministered *?*] to others.

I am still in Amesbury, and, as I can read but little I know hardly anything of the world's doings. It is rather hard to be compelled to be idle. I can't

[*Page 4*]

pity anybody who can work and sleep.

Excuse this poor apology for a letter and read between its lines the love and gratitude of

John G Whittier

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Omar Khayam: Persian scientist and poet, Omar Khayyam (1048-1131). His ideas about the human soul are a matter of controversy. He would have been known to Whittier mainly through the translation of Edward Fitzgerald, *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* (1859).

setting: Whittier's elaborate description of winter New England suggests Jewett's forthcoming story, "The Town Poor," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in July 1890. One may wonder if she showed him this story before its publication.

May day: May 1.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4835.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

February 22d

———————-

[*1890*]*

Dear Lilian:

It really seems too bad to be leaving just as you are coming to this lovely place! but I have been waiting for the Dr. to give me leave of absence which I must own he does rather reluctantly, in order to get away, and having got it, we fly —

[*Page 2*]

I should like to think you were to have rooms like ours on the courtyard! Perhaps you have. A happy stay to you!

Tell dear T.B. to find the Reynolds Rose-garden and see a [trellis *?*] [with *corrected*] yellow bessies on it (near sunset) with a "chinaberry* tree in the background. Mifs Reynolds will show it to him. How we should like to show him things ourselves!

[*Page 3*]

Dear Lily and T.B. — Edwina* and her family are here — Do speak to her and make life easier by "letting bygones be bygones".

It will be unpleasant for you on both sides otherwise.

Do it for Mr. Booth's [sake *corrected from* sakes] and for everybody's sake. She is so much younger that she has had time to think over many things and has doubtless changed more or less since her marriage. The match has been a good one for her. She seems very happy and she is the person to be suited!!

Good bye ——- from

[*Page 4*]

yours very affectionately

Annie Fields.

This last is all "out of my own head" a kind of will and testament — Do not take it hardly dear friends! [Sarah *corrected*] leaves her love in this with mine.

Notes

1890: While this is not certain, the content of the letter suggests that it was written in St. Augustine,

FL, at the end of Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett's second stay there, at the Hotel Ponce de Leon.

The rose garden of Mrs. Reynolds on Bronson street is mentioned in the guidebook, *Chapin's Hand-book of St. Augustine*, p. 21.

chinaberry: While there seems clearly to be an open quotation mark before the word, there is no closing mark. Also, the word is written across two lines, and Fields seems to have hyphenated it twice, once on each line, using =, as she often does for hyphenation.

Edwina: Edwina Booth (1861-1938), daughter of the American actor, Edwin Booth (1833-1893) and niece of Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865). Edwina Booth married Ignatius Grossman in May 1885. Details of the apparent bad feeling are not yet known. Fields's sentence about Edwina's youth seems confusing; perhaps she meant to write, "She *was* so much younger ...."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

148 Charles Street

Boston 22 February

[*1890*]

Dear Mr. Scudder

Will you please have ~~half~~ a dozen of those copies of my photographs printed, like the ones that were made in the autumn for Mrs. Fields? I mean the ones that were altered from the photograveur on the advertising [*deleted letters*] slip. Everybody seems to approve

[*Page 2*]

the likeness so that I wish it might be used for the portrait catalogue* instead of the one that is there now — However! — ~~it~~ ^that^ gives my friends something to scold me about! — Mrs. Fields says that she thinks she paid seventy-five cents apiece for those that were done for her — I wonder what made the expense, for certainly

[*Page 3*]

the advertising slips were done much cheaper. I wish you would be kind enough to send me a word about this. There is some question of using these prints for a book and in a magazine and I should like to know ^for^ what ^price^ they could be done by the hundred. I think the paper need not be so good in that case. I tried to find you the other day at

[*Page 4*]

4 Park St* and meant to ask you these questions then, but you had gone back to the Press.

Believe me, with best regards

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1890: In the upper right corner of page 1, in another hand, underlined: "S. O. Jewett". Below Jewett's date on page 1, is [1890]. No confirmation for this date appears in the letter, but I have accepted it in the hope that it was written by someone at Houghton Mifflin at the time of the letter.

portrait catalogue: The portrait Jewett refers to probably is the one that appears on p. 79 of *A Portrait Catalogue of the Books Published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company* (1905-6). This would seem to be confirmed by the appearance of this portrait in *Outlook*, with an October 1894 reprinting of "The Courting of Sister Wisby."

4 Park St: The Boston office of Houghton Mifflin.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

[*February 1890*]*

Dear, I could make this letter as long as a top s'l halyard with the things [that *corrected*] could not be said this morning — Could you put that letter in your pocket tomorrow which you were going to read; or will you read it some other day? And was I so unmindful of my serious business as not to tell you to read

[*Page 2*]

all Mr. Burlingame's* letter to me, because he asks to have a telegram sent about the manuscript —

And about Strangers and Wayfarers* — would it be any help to have a suggestion that being wayfarers you could use a staff and a scallop shell

but please do make it even prettier* than Folly Island* because it is our book ——

[*Page 3*]

— Theodore* is now your friend countryman and lover. He lost himself at first in pleasure over your fence — then came a burst of silence: then says he: "I thought thshe would be olderly" — When we neared the railroad crossing "Thshe must have painted that cat ever so many times" — but in the Morse woods, "ThShe is very pleasthant" was

[*Page 4*]

was uttered with such [sense *corrected*] of deep conviction and satisfaction that I had to speak with him and not be "lost so poorly in my own thoughts" after the fashion of Lady Macbeth* ! !

I hope that you will get here tomorrow night but not if it is too dark and wet — it seems some how as if this weather might last long! You will find A.F.* and me all alone and so glad if you come and there shall be a

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

lantern out. With dear love S.O.J.

Notes

February 1890: This date is supported by Jewett suggesting ideas for Whitman's book cover design for *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1890). See notes below.

Burlingame's: Edward Livermore Burlingame (1848-1922) was editor of *Scribner's* (1886-1914). Jewett's only pieces to appear in *Scribner's* between 1890 and 1893 were "The New Methuselah" in April 1890 and "A Little Captive Maid" in December 1891. Almost certainly, Jewett and Burlingame are corresponding about "The New Methuselah." In that case, it seems likely this letter was composed no later than February 1890, or possibly in early March.

Strangers and Wayfarers: Jewett's *Strangers and Wayfarers* appeared in November 1890. Whitman's cover included 2 decorations, but neither a staff nor a shell.

prettier: Jewett has written this as if she first wrote "pretty" and then changed the "y" to an "i" and "e."

Folly Island: Jewett's *The King of Folly Island* appeared in 1888.

Theodore: Theodore Jewett Eastman, who turned 11 in 1890. Key to Correspondents.

Lady Macbeth: In Act 2, Scene 2, of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth counsels her husband to get hold of himself after he slays King Duncan, in order to put on a show of innocence.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 277.

Samuel Longfellow to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Saturday 1 March 1890*]*

Dear Miss Jewett

I was sorry on coming home last evening to find that I had missed seeing you.

Alice's unexpected detention at Jackson on account of Harry Dana's* attack of measles had prevented the opening of the box & the hanging of the bay-wreath on the birthday. But its

[*Page 2*]

fragrance will long survive, a symbol of the kind & ever faithful remembrances that sent it from so far.

I am just going to Portland, for my sister, M^rs^. Pierce's* 80th birthday — as we say, meaning anniversary of the birth-day, on Monday. I expect to meet Alice there & shall take M^rs^.

[*Page 3*]

Fields's* letter to her.

If you see the (English) Fortnightly magazine you will find in the February number a very bright article by our friend William Fullerton,* on English & Americans. It is nicely done — a bit over-done here & there but quite worth your reading{.}

With kind regards to

[*Page 4*]

M^rs^. Fields, & thanks, too long delayed, for the flowers sent to my sick-chamber — your little plant still flourishes —

Very truly yours

Sam^l^ Longfellow

I have news this morning ~~from~~ ^of^ M^r^. Lowell* that he is decidedly better.

Saturday

Notes

1890: See notes below.

Harry Dana's: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana (26 January 1881-1950), was the son of Richard Henry Dana II and Edith Longfellow, daughter of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Key to Correspondents and Find a Grave.

At note in another hand appears at the bottom of page 4: "Taken from Final Memorials of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edited by Samuel Longfellow". *Final Memorials* was published in 1887. American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (27 February 1807 - 1882) was the brother of Samuel Longfellow and the father of Jewett correspondent, Alice Longfellow.

Presumably, the bay wreath Longfellow mentions was intended as a remembrance of his brother's birthday on 27 February.

Mrs. Pierce's: Anne Longfellow Pierce (3 March 1810 - 24 January 1901). Find a Grave.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

William Fullerton: "English and Americans" by American author, William Morton Fullerton (1865-1952) appeared in the *Fortnightly Review* (February 1980) pp. 242-255. Wikipedia.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Longfellow, Samuel, 1819-1892. 1 letter; [1887?]. (136). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

148 Charles Street

Saturday

[*8 March 1890*]*

Dear Mr Scudder

I send the stories at last with doubts whether they can all go into an Aldine volume.* If not, may we choose between the two last? Perhaps you will not agree with my choice but I feel sure about the first four

[*Page 2*]

and the White Heron. Some morning early in the week I will see you about them unless you would rather make a special appointment* —

Mrs. Fields sends you this copy of The Greatest Thing in the World* which she

[*Page 3*]

feels sure you will like though you may not see "The House's" way to re-publishing it.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

8 March 1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, in another hand, underlined: "Sarah O. Jewett". The date, penciled in brackets by another hand, is confirmed in the notes below.

Below Jewett's signature on page 3 are initials, H.ES., for Horace E. Scudder.

Aldine volume: Jewett's only book to appear in the Houghton Mifflin Riverside Aldine series was *Tales of New England* (1890).

special appointment: There appear to be initials or letters beneath "special."

The Greatest Thing in the World: "The Greatest Thing in the World" (1890) is a sermon by the Scottish biologist and evangelist Henry Drummond (1851-1897). Though it was published in multiple editions after 1890, Houghton Mifflin seems not to have taken it up.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

148 Charles Street

Saturday 15 March

'90

Dear Mr. Scudder

I will send you an answer to your note of this morning so that you shall have it early on Monday. I have not managed yet to get time to look through the stories.

I wished to ask you at once if it would not

[*Page 2*]

be better to push this book through and let it come out before summer, since it simply makes one of a series, and if I should make up another volume of short stories in the autumn they might get into each other's way and "trip up!" You see I

[*Page 3*]

betray a sad lack of confidence in my children!

— You do not express any disapproval of the title which I put on the cover: Tales of New England.* It says itself well and easily and perhaps will do as well as another — though I was not sure of it at first. You do not

[*Page 4*]

think it is too ambitious? But what are they Tales of, if not ——? ————!

says

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

England: Richard Cary notes that this book appeared in May 1890 as one of the Riverside Aldine Series. At the end of 1890, she published a second volume of newly collected stories, *Strangers and Wayfarers*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

148 Charles Street

16 March 1890*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I send you a new list of contents for the Aldine volume.* I like this arrangement better than the first.

I shall be at South Berwick on Monday and Tuesday, returning to town on Wednesday.

[*Page 2*]

What does Mr. Houghton* think of the title Tales of New England?

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: In the upper right corner of page 1, in another hand, underlined: "Sarah O. Jewett".

Below Jewett's signature on page 2 are initials, H.E.S., for Horace E. Scudder. Key to Correspondents.

Aldine volume: Houghton Mifflin's Riverside Aldine Classics series at this time included American and British classic reprints in high-quality formats. Jewett's inclusion was a recognition of her prominent position in 19th-century American writing. Her only book to appear in the series during her lifetime was *Tales of New England* (1890). All of these stories had appeared in previous collections. The final contents of the volume were "Miss Tempy's Watchers," The Dulham Ladies," "An Only Son," "Marsh Rosemary," "A White Heron," "Law Lane," "A Lost Lover," and "The Courting of Sister Wisby."

Mr. Houghton: Henry Oscar Houghton. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Chandler Moulton

Boston, March 19th

[*1890*]

[*Letterhead with superimposed initials,* SOJ]

My dear Mrs. Moulton

I had just come tired out with a long half-day's hurrying about, when your dear book* and dearer note were brought to me. I am so glad you like the roses for I sent them with a message. I am sure they gave it to you for [there *?*] are some flowers that one

[*Page 2*]

can always trust:

I thought while I was with you yesterday that I was very sorry you were going away, but today I am somehow sorrier still, and it seems very

strange that I have not seen you more when it was so easy a thing to go to you if I had only known{.} I do not like to think of waiting so long, but

[*Page 3*]

there is a great deal to remember which it would take me longer than one summer to forget and I think of you over and over again for many things I have heard you say, and for your kindness which has come straight to my heart — You say that I shall know you better if I read your poems. And that is true enough, but you already are no stranger

[*Page* 4]

and is it not the truth always that one is never so confidential as when one speaks to the whole world = Here is a bit of verse* I wrote not long ago which seems to be part of this letter and I cannot help sending it to you. I will not say good-bye to you for I shall think of you very often and so you will not really go away. And indeed I shall always be your sincere and affectionate

Sarah O. Jewett

[*Page 5*]

Why do I love you? If I told you why
Then you would know the secret that was made
The law that Love has from all time obeyed,
And I should understand a mystery.
From the four corners of the earth have I
Gathered into my heart, all unafraid
The friendships that are mine. This price I paid:
I gave myself for them most willingly.
The life in me a part of all Life is!
One great power moves the whole world on its way;
When I am happiest is when I find
The next of kin to me in hills or seas
Or trees that grow, or flowers that bloom in May
Or you dear love my friend so true and kind.

Notes

dear book: It is likely Moulton has given Jewett a copy of her 1890 title, *Stories told at Twilight* (1890).

bit of verse: This sonnet was transcribed by John E. Frost, appearing in his *Sarah Orne Jewett*, p. 116. Jewett's characterization of the author's confidentiality may be an echo of the opening paragraph of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Custom-House: Introductory to *The Scarlet Letter*."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress in the Louise Chandler Moulton papers, 1852-1908. MSS33787. This transcription of from a microfilm copy of the manuscript, on Reel 8 of Microfilm 18,869-15N-15P.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

South Berwick

19 March

[*1890*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

I enclose a second list of the stories — I return to Boston today and I shall be ready for the proofs* whenever they are ready for me. By the stories going at once to press I suppose that you mean to bring out the book this spring. The more

[*Page 2*]

I think of that the wiser it seems. I am sure to have a new bookful ready for the autumn.

Yours very truly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: In the upper right corner of page 1, in another hand, underlined: "Sarah O. Jewett". Near the left corner is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 20 March 1890. Below Jewett's signature on page 2 are initials, F.J.G., for Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

proofs: Jewett refers to *Tales of New England* (1890).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Monday morning

[*Late March 1890*]

Dear Loulie

I find that I can come to luncheon on Thursday, so I say yes with great pleasure — .

Mrs. Fields asks me to say that she wishes very much that you and Miss Cronyn would dine with us this evening, very quietly, at

[*Page 2*]

quarter before seven. Do say yes at once! we hope ever so much that you can come.

In haste

Yours affectionately

S.O.J.

Notes

Late March 1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, in another hand appears: March 1890. The rationale for this choice is not known. If the letter is from March of 1890, then it must have been written late in the month, after Jewett and Fields returned from Florida.

Miss Cronyn: It is probable that Jewett refers to the soprano Elizabeth A. Cronyn (1852 - 1921?), the daughter of Dr. John Cronyn (1827-1898), a founder of the Medical Department of Niagara University. In addition to her music degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY, she studied with Otto Dresel, Louisa's father, in Dresden, Germany.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

[*March 21, 1890*]*

Friday morning

Dear Loulie

I have claimed my own! but I must let the little picture live here for Mrs. Fields likes it so much. I hope you will show her the larger one of Hospenthal* some day too. Thank you very much for giving this to me, it is a bit of real life and

[*Page 2*]

country. I feel as if I had been in at all the doors.

I had a very good and dear little visit at home. Berwick was snowy but very sunshiny until the day I came away.

I hope you are not too tired by this time with the bags? I forgot to say that you must mark

[*Page 3*]

the three-handled jar sold. I quite look forward to buying it at the fair!! and it will look so fine on your table. I am not sure that I shall not bring it home for a pretty present to Mrs. Fields and have such a lark and may you be there to see!

But I must not stop to write any more this busy morning. Yesterday I went

[*Page 4*]

to hear Patti,* who was in exquisite voice and all ready to sing charmingly, but the audience was so big and so sober minded that ~~they~~ it didn't even take much notice of a ballet between the acts and really didn't seem to know that Patti was on the stage until she sang The Last Rose of Summer in a divine way — Then it did make a noise, but no bravos, no wild approval, only sedate clapping.

[*Up the left side and across the top margin of page 1*]

Somehow it was all very funny, but I never shall forget some notes in her voice when she sang that song. I have never heard her sing so before.

Goodbye, with love from

Sarah

My love to Miss Croniger{.}* I hope she is still

[*Up the left side and across the top margin of page 2*]

with you and that I shall see her again. Perhaps you can come tomorrow afternoon with her.

Notes

1890: This date is penciled in the upper right corner of page 1. While it appears to be in Jewett's hand, this is not certain. One other penciled note appears in this ms. that almost certainly are not in Jewett's hand: "50-".

Hospenthal: See Dresel to Jewett of 24 September 1888. In that letter, Dresel reports that she has been painting intensely in Hospenthal, Switzerland. Probably, Dresel has given Jewett one of her finished paintings from that trip.

sold: Jewett underlined this word twice.

Patti: Adelina Patti (1843-1919) we a very popular Italian coloratura soprano. Richard Cary notes: "On this occasion she was making her first appearance in three years — a series of six operas at the Mechanics' Building Grand Hall — in von Flotow's *Martha*.

Miss Croniger: This person has not yet been identified. One may note the similarity of this name to that of soprano Elizabeth A. Cronyn, whom Jewett apparently mentions in her letter to Dresel of late March 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Alice Greenwood Howe to Sarah Orne Jewett

Rome

Mch. 25.

[1890]*

My dear Sarah,

Your letter was much welcome. How I wish you were here, & rheumatism — ["tubes" *?*] far away. We have had a few mild days, & many cool ones, some truly very cold, but no rains since landing, except once in [*unrecognized name*] at night. The air is soft & lovely, but I long for a really basking time.

We are enjoying every minute. I long to stay on & on in the charming south, after [*unrecognized word*] & Amalfi, but like Länzer* we were carried "Nach Rom, nach Rom", and [our *?*] two weeks here have been most full & interesting, as you well know.

[*Page 2*]

We are within a few doors of Jessie Cochrane,* & see her often. Most kindly she asked some very agreeable people to meet us at tea one afternoon. We have also seen Mifs Leigh Smith two or three times. She is also at the end of our street. She & Mifs Cochrane send much love to both of you, & were delighted to hear of you and Mrs. Fields. We hope to persuade Mifs C. to return in the streamer with us in May. We have also seen Maud [Eliot *?*], where we met Huxley's daughter, & what especially interested me — the son of Père Hyacinthe Loyson. When we were here before the father called on us in Paris in his monks dress — — and now this [son *?*], ~~with~~ a handsome young fellow, with an American wife of his own.

[*Page 3*]

After mentioning people I may pass on to other matters, such as Vaticans & forums, etc. The [*unrecognized word*] Hare's book being much of it so satisfactory to have the right quotations apt to one's hand. My chief delights are statues, ruins with blue sky through the arches, & larks singing on the campagna — & <u>all</u> the native people. I have not dealt much in churches. Yet today in the lovely Pamphili Doria* I thought of you & Mrs. Fields at the [*unrecognized name*] in the grass, picking flowers, & looked across the city to the deep blue mountains beyond —

Harry* is a most appreciative & delightful companion, & I hope will remember all he is taking in,

[*Page 4*]

rather highly condensed food, so much at once —

We stay here ten days longer, — then go to Siena & Florence, where I shall try to find Mrs. Fairchild.* You do not speak of the Sargent pictures* except as a background to dear Mrs. F. but I can imagine how charming & [*unrecognized word*] her <u>real</u> picture was in contrast. What did you think of Wertheimer?* I should think he would have visited your dreams. I am so sorry you are having a poor winter dear Sarah. I can deeply sympathize. I had seven such lean months last year. You will have to try Miss Clark's treatments,* and Holderness air, & then you will be set up.

With much love to Mrs. F.

Yours ever

Alice.

Notes

1890: This date is a guess, based on the implication in this letter that John Singer Sargent's 1890 portrait of Annie Adams Fields is in process. Note also her reference to Jewett's "hard winter," which included several weeks of convalescence in Florida for Annie Fields.

Länzer: This transcription is uncertain, and the allusion remains unidentified. Länzer was carried "to Rome, to Rome."

Jessie Cochrane: Key to Correspondents.

Leigh Smith: This may be English activist and artist, Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon (1827-1891).

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Maud [Eliot ?] ... Huxley's daughter: If this transcription is correct, Howe probably refers to American novelist Maud Howe Eliot (1854-1948), daughter of Julia Ward Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Probably Howe refers to English biologist and defender of Charles Darwin, Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-1895). Wikipedia says that he and his wife had five daughters, four of whom survived

in 1890. Perhaps the best known of these was Henrietta (1863-1940), who became a singer.

Père Hyacinthe Loyson: French preacher and theologian, Charles Jean Marie Loyson (1827-1912). He eventually left the church and married an American woman.

Hare's book: English author, Augustus John Cuthbert Hare (1834-1903) published *Walks in Rome* (1871) and several other guide books to Italy.

Harry: This person has not yet been identified.

Mrs. Fairchild: Probably this is Elizabeth (Lily) Nelson Fairchild. See "Sally Fairchild" in Key to Correspondents.

Sargent: American painter, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) made a portrait of Annie Fields in 1890.

Wertheimer: This reference is mysterious. Perhaps Howe has sent Jewett a reproduction of a painting by the Austrian artist who worked mainly in Paris, Gustav Wertheimer (1847–1902).

Miss Clark's treatments: Miss Clark's Mystic Cure for Rheumatism & Neuralgia was popular at the end of the 19th Century. Newspaper ads may be found on the internet.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Howe, Alice (Greenwood) 1835-1924. 4 letters; 1892-[1900] & [n.d.], 1892-[1900]. (102). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Monday Evening.

148 Charles St.

Boston.

[*Spring 1890*]*

My dear friend:

As usual, you have taken the cake! of all the papers sent out to be filled yours has been the first to return and I have mailed it immediately to Philadelphia. Thank you for this also. I did not wish our people here to seem backward in what Mr. Kennan* and others think well of. Happily

[*Page 2*]

through the efforts of Phillips Brooks* or others the heading of the paper has been somewhat changed for the better. Names are now flowing in to Philadelphia at the rate of one thousand a day.

I have just returned from South Berwick where I have been to carry my Sarah to her native air. I thought it rather a cold and damp air

[*Page 3*]

myself but she is so much better that as soon as she can get out of doors she will begin to get strong once more. Today ^there^ has been a bitter east wind blowing in over icebergs but the sun has a great deal of power if we can get into the rays of it —

No. I have not seen Elizabeth's story of the Magician yet. We have [been *corrected*] reading Drummond's*

[*Page 4*]

Africa which will delight you. It is simple and noble like everything he does.

Amelia Edwards writes me that her poor arm had two accidents before she reached home and it is now very painful. She was flung across her stateroom by a sudden wave of the sea and dashed against the opposite wall once and once she slipped out of bed. The saying "the misfortune of the poor is their poverty" may be said of the lame as well.

Goodnight, dear friend{.} I wish you could see a sunset with me over the pretty green sward back of this house; the river full of sailboats floating dreamily beyond [*mark*]

[*Up the left side of page 1*]

Good night once more — your affectionate Annie Fields.

Notes

1890: The notes below are somewhat speculative, but they provide circumstantial evidence, along with Fields's weather report, that this letter was composed in the spring of 1890.

Kennan: While this is uncertain, Fields may refer to American explorer, George Kennan (1845-1924). After a year of traveling in Russia, he returned home to take up the cause of Russian democracy and, particularly, to oppose the Russian exile system. He spoke widely across the U.S. and published *Siberia and the Exile System*

(1891), following a series of reports on Siberia in *Century Magazine*. Wikipedia.

According to a biographical sketch by Jeanette Kennan Hotchkiss available via the Dartmouth College Library, a "Kennan Testimonial Committee was organized in Philadelphia in 1890, its name changed later to 'Siberian Exile Petition Committee'." Possibly, then, Fields helped to organize signatures for this petition.

Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Elizabeth's ... Drummond's: While this is uncertain, it seems likely that Fields refers to *The Master of the Magicians* (1890), a novel by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and Herbert D. Ward.

Scottish evangelist and author, Henry Drummond (1851-1897) published *Tropical Africa* in 1888.

Amelia Edwards: British novelist and Egyptologist, Amelia Ann Blanford Edwards (1831-1892). In 1889-1890, she toured the United States lecturing on Egyptian exploration.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Edwin Augustus George Jewitt to Sarah Orne Jewett

Paxton Villa

Matlock

Derbyshire

25th March 1890

Dear Mifs Jewett

I was exceedingly pleased to receive your very kind and interesting letter, and to hear that the "Sketch" of the life of my father, which I took the liberty of sending had proved interesting to you.

I

[*Page 2*]

forwarded the "Sketch" to you, after reading, with unusual interest a short [biograph *so spelled*] of yourself in an American magazine, which had been lent to me by Mr. W. H. Goss,* — my fathers biographer.

As you express a desire to see a portrait of my father, I have much pleasure in enclosing for your acceptance, a copy of the last photo that was taken of him. I also send another, and better portrait and also one of him and my

[*Page 3*]

dear mother together{.}

W. Goss, to whom I showed your letter, tells me that he has forwarded to you a copy of a Parian [Bust *?*] which he produced some years ago, and which is a remarkably good likeness of my father.

The name of Jewett or Jewitt is by no means common in this country, indeed, I have never met anyone of the name except my own relations, and they are very few. Probably the name would be met with at Bradford as it is also at the places in Yorkshire.

You will see by the enclosed memorials* that I am in the saddest trouble having

[*Page 3*]

recently lost my darling wife very suddenly, after only three years of truly happy married life. Since her death I have never felt able to take the same interest in things I did before, and I feel that I can never get over this saddest and greatest trial possible. Since my darling wifes death I have lost my infant daughter which has been an additional great grief.

Hoping the photos will be of interest to you, and assuring you of the great pleasure it has given to me to hear from you,

I am

yours very truly

Edwin A. G. Jewitt

Notes

W. H. Goss: English potter William Henry Goss (1833-1906). He authored *The Life and Death of Llewellyn Jewitt* (1884).

memorials: In the Houghton folder with this letter are two documents: a printed memorial for Jewitt's daughter, Clara, 26 October 1889 - 25 February 1890; and another for his wife, Georgiana Jewitt, daughter of W. H. Goss, of Cheshire, 30 July 1855 - 3 November 1889.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Jewitt, Edwin A.G. 1 letter; 1890. (117). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

[*April, 1890*.]*

Wednesday

Dear Loulie

Please put this to our table's credit. Thank you for the three-handled vase, which Mrs. Fields discovered last night to be a flower-pot and now has bestowed her entire approval and much affection upon it!! I shall hope to see you very soon

Yours ever S.O.J.

Notes

April 1890: This date is penciled in the upper left of page 1, in another hand. It seems a reasonable choice because this letter seems to be associated with others probably from March and of April 1890, when Dresel and Jewett participated in an as yet unspecified fund-raising fair.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

[*April, 1890*.]*

Dear Loulie

I send you some Betty Leicesters* but I cant tell you how sorry I am to miss all the fun of the fair. I didnt know until within a day [or *corrected*] two that I wasn't going to be [well *corrected*] enough to go — I am not going to give you any commissions but I wish dear M^rs^ Dresel would pick me out two of the prettiest bags made of pieces of the dear gowns — the ones

[*Page 2*]

she likes the best. With ever so much love to both from A.F.* and me

Ever yours

S.O.J.

In bed, Saturday

afternoon —

Notes

April 1890: This date is penciled in the upper left of page 1, almost certainly in another hand. This is a reasonable date, for Jewett's *Betty Leicester, A Story for Girls* (1890) had appeared at the end of 1889.

Also, there is a letter to Dresel dated 21 March 1890 in which Jewett speaks of her plan to attend a fund-raising fair and her interest in bags that Dresel seems involved in making.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*April 1890*]*

dresses to be made for mother and I am going to get at my Satine,* ~~but I~~ but not just yet. The garden is so [wet *corrected*] that there is no stepping into it and so I am going to try a little writing presently. I didn't [*deletion*] see any body I knew as I came down in the train except the good conductor and an old friend of my [younger *corrected*] days who looked elderly and pinched and poor on the platform [at *corrected*] one of the stations. Her face quite haunted me afterward.

[*Page 2*]

= Every time I come back to Berwick I am so eager to know what I can do for it — but the little town is so unconscious of possible betterments, and goes on with its cooking stoves so comfortably, [*deletion*] in spite of Aladdin Cookers* that it is like a Sleeping beauty* in its wood — Well — perhaps I am the Prince to wake it up but I never know how — — Goodby dear { — } dearest Fuffs dont get too tired for that spoils [your next *?*] day. I do like to think of my dear time with you —

Your Pinny —

Notes

1890: This date is a guess. Jewett's mother died in 1891, at about the time Aladdin Cooker's were coming into general use. See note below. This date should be close.

Fields has noted in the upper right corner of the first page: "~~March~~ April." And she has penciled parentheses around "dresses ... just yet".

Satine: Probably Jewett refers to "sateen," a soft cotton satin fabric.

Aladdin Cookers: According to Wikipedia, a kitchen stove and oven that used minimal power

for cooking, both invented in 1886 by Edward Atkinson (1827-1905). See also Atkinson, "Scientific Cooking Exemplified," in *Good Housekeeping* 10 (1890) pp. 51-4. By the early 1890s, it appears that Atkinson's stove and oven were coming into general use.

Sleeping beauty: "Sleeping Beauty" is a fairy-tale of a young woman who, with all her household, is put under a spell of sleep for many years until a Prince finds and awakens her with a kiss. It was originally published by Charles Perrault in 1697.

Fuffs: Fields seems to have deleted this nickname, using pencil.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury

4/7 1890

My dear Friend:

Looking over the last number of the Am. Hebrew, a very able Jewish paper in N.Y., I could not help clipping out the enclosed, which so exactly expresses the opinion of everybody who is capable of having an opinion on thy charming little book.*

I wish I could look in upon you

[*Page 2*]

in reality. I visit you often in imagination{.} With my dearest love to Annie Fields, I am affectionately thy frd.

John G Whittier

Notes

Am. Hebrew ... thy charming little book: A review of Jewett's *Betty Leicester* (1890) appeared in *The American Hebrew* 42 (2 April 1890), p. 199.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence. Letters from John Greenleaf Whittier, MS Am 1743 (235). A transcription by Richard Cary appears in "Whittier Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett," *in Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* ed. John B. Pickard (Hartford: The Emerson Society, 1968), pp. 11-22. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

148 Charles Street

Tuesday

[*April 1890*]*

Dear Loulie

I tried to speak to you when I had just got through dinner last night, but the maid said that you were at dinner, and when I suggestively inquired "Almost through?" she said "On no: <u>just starting in</u>!" So that I gave up — and now, this morning I hear that you have gone to Vermont — So here you must find my thanks for a Bag! instead of coming round to receive them in person, as Mrs. Fields was planning. I like my

[*Page 2*]

Christmas bag very much and [it *corrected*] is none too big for my crocheting — Mrs. Fields sends her love and thanks for the delightful Concord photographs — You might send one [here *?*] on a postcard to a city person.

Yours most affectionately

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1890: This letter could have been composed in almost any year between 1884 and January 1909 during which Dresel was in the United States and after she and Jewett became acquainted. However, I have placed it in 1890 on the slight evidence of Jewett thanking Dresel for a bag. In March and April of 1890, Dresel and Jewett participated in a fund-raising fair, and in their correspondence, Jewett expressed interest in piece-bags Dresel and her mother were making for this fair.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

[*Top left corner of page 1 in another hand*: wc]

148 Charles Street

Thursday evening

[*Spring 1890*]*

Dear Mrs Claflin

Pray do not feel bound by our, or rather my, abrupt request this afternoon. I did not explain that only a limited number of people are to join in giving the souvenir of Boston to Miss Edwards

[*Page 2*]

as there is not time to manage a large subscription. There are many who stand ready however to join, so that you must just act your pleasure and feel perfectly free to say no.

I have made two visits at home since I got back from the South,* but I

[*Page 3*]

shall now settle down and be a "stiddy meetin'er" for a while.*

Yours affectionately

S. O. Jewett

I spent Monday morning with Mr. Whittier* and found him in better health and spirits than I expected, but he has evidently been

[*Page 4*]

very poorly —

Notes

Spring 1890: This date is inferred from the letter's reference to Amelia Edwards touring the United States and to Jewett having recently returned from travel in the South. See notes below.

Miss Edwards: Amelia Ann Blanford Edwards (1831-1892). "In 1882, she co-founded the Egypt Exploration Fund (now the Egypt Exploration Society) and became its joint Honorary Secretary. In 1889-1890, she toured the United States lecturing on Egyptian exploration."

from the South: Jewett and Annie Fields had spent February 1890 in St. Augustine, FL They had returned by 15 March.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

while: Jewett may refer to the Saturday Morning Club. The catalog of the records of the Saturday Morning Club, held by the Schlesinger Library at Harvard, lists a number of Jewett friends associated with the Saturday Morning Club, including its 1871 founder, Julia Ward Howe, as well as Phillips Brooks, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alice Longfellow, Louise Moulton, Sarah Wyman Whitman, and Annie Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J, Ac 950.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mrs. Bates*

148 Charles St.

Boston 16 April

[*1890*]*

Dear Mrs Bates

I give you my best thanks for your kind note and I send you a copy of Betty Leicester with my autograph by today's post —

Your most sincerely.

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: This speculative date is based upon the publication date of Jewett's *Betty Leicester* (1890), which appeared at the end of 1889.

Bates: This person has not been identified. However, another letter of 15 May 1897 suggests that Mrs. Bates may have resided near enough to Jewett to make reasonable an invitation to give a public reading. Particularly in the Boston area, there were several persons who might be in a position to issue a speaking invitation. One example is Clara Smith Bates (1861-1946), spouse of Republican politician John Lewis Bates (1859-1946), who eventually served as governor of Massachusetts.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 5672-a, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. Apr 20th (90

My dearest Annie:

I was so glad of your dear letter & oh how lovely it would be if you could come here, but precious Annie, I hardly dare have you venture it quite yet lest some rough experience might befall, & you know, the going & coming of the little Pinafore* is so uncertain, depending so much on the capricious wind & sea. For instance, if you were to write & appoint a day when you would be in Ports, tho' the sun should shine & the weather seem propitious, it might be blowing out here so the little craft couldn't get over & there you would be, & your priceless time wasted & all the fatigue & trouble for nothing. I have had to wait a week at a time at the De Normandies in Ports. in years gone, for a chance over. And when Oscar sets a day to go across, half the time he cant do it. Day before yesterday it was pretty smooth when he went in in the morning, but when he returned in the aft. it was blowing half a gale & the little boat plunged &

[*Page 2*]

[& *repeated*] rolled so I fairly trembled to see it, as it passed by to creep round the island to find some sheltered place where they might land. Heavens! I should die to have you run the risk of such an experience, & you would die in it, delicate Flower* that you are. Let us wait a little — in a few weeks the regular, large boat runs, & when she begins there will be hardly a soul about for some days, & the weather will be warm & we can be in the cottage. I move over there in May & all will be so beautiful then! If only we were on the line of the R. R. it would be possible now, but you must not run any risks, my dearest Annie. I should worry myself into little bits to think of your doing so!

I am just beginning to get my strength back a little & creep about in the sun & look at my garden, & wish I were Samson.* We have [had *corrected*] a good many days of bitter weather, it froze so hard night before last, the pipes burst, all about —, & the ground was hard as stone. But the song-sparrows sing just as loudly & sweet, & the martins are building their nests in their tiny houses

[*Page 3*]

on my piazza eaves — the white breasted swallows.

Horace Lamb* wrote to me to tell me about his marriage — I think it is so beautiful! & I am so glad for them both. He is so fine a creature — She must be a happy woman.

There is so much I want to say, but must wait — dear Annie, it was so sweet in you to think of coming! And please do keep it in mind for later. Tell me, when do you go to Manchester?

My dearest, dearest love to you

Your

C.

Did I not tell you I sent for a gray gown of cashmere & one of mohair from the patterns you were so lovely to send me? And they are all ready to wear — A thousand thanks, but only bring yourself, when the possible time comes, nothing else would be so welcome.

Notes

Pinafore: The *Pinafore* was the Thaxter's steam tug that carried supplies and people between Portsmouth and Appledore in the Isle of the Shoals during the summer season.

Flower: A nickname for Fields.

Samson: Thaxter refers to the Biblical Samson, whose story is told in Judges 13-15, a person of great physical strength.

Horace Lamb: Horatio Appleton Lamb (1850-1926), son of a prominent Boston merchant, Thomas Lamb (1796-1887), and brother of painter and Jewett correspondent, Rose Lamb. Key to Correspondents.

Horatio Lamb was a wholesale merchant and then treasurer of Simmons College. He married Annie Lawrence Rotch (1857-1950) on 14 April 1890. Two of his daughters became art collectors and patrons of the arts: Aimée (1893-1989), also a painter, and Rosamund (1898-1989).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St.

April 24th

[*1890*]*

My very dear friend;

My thoughts go constantly travelling to you but my pen has been slow to follow of late. Sarah has

been very ill{,} taken suddenly with a trouble of the throat called [tonsilitis *corrected*] — Fortunately our anxieties were soon over but she is left very weak and is unable to go down stairs, indeed she is hardly able to sit up yet. The lovely spring days however

[*2*]

are every one doing her good and I mean to take her to Berwick where she can wander about out of doors as soon as she is able to move.

She was in the full tide of engagements, all manner of pleasant and useful deeds taking her out and keeping her busy when she was suddenly

[*3*]

stricken down. She is asleep now or she would send you a message{,} the trouble being quite behind us.

Have you seen Henry Alden's book "God in His World". I think you will like it? Phillips Brooks has just written him a strong letter of appreciation{.}

Women in Boston are just now interested in helping to establish a first rate Medical School in connection with

[*4*]

the famous Johns Hopkins Hospital* and University in Baltimore; the opportunity opens for a school good enough to make a sojourn in Europe no longer ^a^ necessity for every well=educated woman=doctor. I hope we can get the dirty dollars! Drummond's Tropical Africa* looks like an interesting book; have you seen it? or are you only looking out upon the books that are swaying in the air now a days. Surely there was never a lovelier spring.

Thank you for "the Captain's Well"* which I had not seen. It is a noble ballad — Good night from

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

yours affectionately Annie Fields

Notes

Alden's: Henry Mills Alden. Key to Correspondents. His *God in His World: an Interpretation* appeared in 1890.

Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Johns Hopkins Hospital: The work of establishing a medical school for women at Johns Hopkins involved both Fields and Jewett. See Jewett to Whittier of 25 November 1890. Jewett correspondent Mary Garrett took the lead in insuring that when the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine opened in 1893, it admitted both men and women.

Drummond's Tropical Africa: Scottish author and evangelist Henry Drummond (1851-1897) published *Tropical Africa* in 1888.

"the Captain's Well": According to the web site, John Greenleaf Whittier: Essex County's Famous Son," his poem, "The Captain's Well," was published in 1889.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Jackson Garrison

148 Charles Street

Wednesday

[*January-May 1890*]*

Dear Mr. Garrison

Would you be so kind as to send me a cheque for $100, on my copyright account? If you have heard anything of the sales of Mifs B. Leicester I should like very much to know how

[*Page 2*]

she has been getting on.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, underlined and in another hand: "Sarah O. Jewett". Beneath Jewett's date, in another hand: [1890]. This date probably is correct as indicated by Jewett's interest in sales of *Betty Leicester*, which appeared at the end of 1889. That Jewett asks about this book and not her book from spring of 1890, *Tales of New England*, suggests that this letter was composed in first half of the year.

Below this are initials which may be MM or MW. Near the bottom right corner of page 2 are the initials F.J.G for Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and

records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

148 Charles Street

Saturday 3rd May

[*1890*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I am much pleased with your suggestion of putting one of my stories into the Riverside Series — but may I suggest that A Marsh Island seems to me a better story for the purpose than A Country Doctor?*

As for sending the book out

[*Page 2*]

to Mr. Douglas,* I should like that immensely — and I think it would be a good plan. I have had some very kind letters from Mr. Douglas (chiefly* through Mrs. Fields who used to know him in Edinburgh, and about Dr. John Brown* matters.) but of course nothing ever came up about re-publications. I wish Mr. Houghton would be kind enough to send a

[*Page 3*]

message about Tales of New England,* as Mr. Douglas would be influenced by that. I always think that Mr Douglas's little paper books are charming.

I must thank The House for the ten copies of the Tales which came a day or two ago. It is really an [an *repeated*] exquisite book and I feel a proud sense of promotion! I was

[*Page 4*]

so glad too, to find how well Betty Leicester had done.

I should have reported myself and made sure there was nothing more I could do about the Tales,* but I have been [*deleted letters*] ill for a fortnight and cannot yet go down stairs —

= With many thanks I am

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, in another hand, underlined: "Sarah O. Jewett". Below Jewett's date is penciled [1890]. This date seems correct in that 3 May fell on a Saturday in 1890. See notes below.

In the bottom left corner of page 4 are the underlined initials, F.J.G. for Francis Jackson Garrison, followed by an unrecognized word — ".Eus" ?

A Country Doctor: Jewett's novels, *A Marsh Island* (1885) and *A Country Doctor* (1884). Jewett seems to have underlined "A" twice in the former title.

A Marsh Island did appear in a Riverside paper edition in 1890, according to WorldCat. *A Country Doctor* appeared in the same series in May 1893.

Mr. Douglas: David Douglas. See Key to Correspondents. It does not appear that Douglas reprinted any of Jewett's books at his Edinburgh, Scotland press.

(chiefly: Almost certainly the parenthesis marks were penciled in by another hand.

Dr. John Brown: John Brown (1735-1788) was a Scottish physician and medical theorist.

Tales: *Tales of New England* (1890) was a retrospective selection of Jewett's previously collected short stories.

Betty Leicester: Jewett's 1890 novel, subtitled "a Story for Girls."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. May 8th (90

My dearest Annie:

It is so long since we have had a mail or heard a word from the land, quite ten days, we feel more like Robinson Crusoes* than usual, even, & it is truly hard to keep the run of the days of the weeks & the month, when there is nothing to mark them. Five days ago my brother started in the Pinafore* for Portsmouth & we haven't seen or heard a word from him since. He was to return at once, but the weather kept him three days & yesterday was calm, he might have come & we were watching for

him all day, no sign of the little Pin however & Cedric* & I

[*Page 2*]

cant help feeling anxious lest something ill may have befallen. The first thunder squall of the season pursued the little boat on her way to Port — & I saw her slender mast & smokestack disappear in the blinding rain as she forged toward the land — Since then not a word! & our provisions run low & every body is wondering what has befallen & there is no way of knowing, no other boat.Yesterday was a lovely day & I was able to do quite a little in my dear garden & did not get so fearfully tired as I might. But this morning it is so cold & gray, & a wild [dry *?*] N-easter blowing & the sea tumbling in black swollen waves into Broad Cove opposite where I write. No Pin

[*Page 3*]

today, I fear.

I hope all is well with you, dearest Annie, & that you understood about the difficulty & possible discomfort of reaching Appledore now. You were an angel to think of it, an angel of kindness as you always are, & please, please don't give it up, only postpone till you are sure of not being the worse for it. Beside the uncertainties of the stormy sea, I should be anxious [lest *corrected*] you might not be quite comfortable after you got here, in our rough, Robinson Crusoe way of living till the house opens — all in this big room, the centre of warmth, the "house place," which is all very pleasant for bodies who are used to it, with its ten windows of blossoming plants on this side, but the cooking range is on the opp. side & also the kitchen sink, if you please, the dining table always standing, set, here in this corner where I have my own little table & Karl his typewriter table, & the sewing machine close by & over near the range the women servants dining table{,} they taking their meals in the same room. The big gang of workmen have their

[*Page 4*]

quarters outside in the "help's hall". But all the cooking for them & us goes on here & the dish washing & Lord knows what. I am used to it & don't mind, but it would be the death of you! Later I go over to my own quarters in the cottage, soon as it is warm enough, & then we have meals in the dining room. Then dear, dear Annie, do come! don't give it up. Evenings now, Cedric & Oscar (when he is at home, & I spend in mother's room, where I also [sleep *corrected*] & where Karl sleeps in a little room adjoining. Poor Karl has got on so well this spring, I hardly dare think about it, I am so thankful. I dread the spring so much always for him, for "then comes his fit"* especially & every

[*Page 5*]

morning I look so anxiously in his face fearing to find his lips white & eyes vacant, especially if rain comes, a long rain storm then the foul fiend* works on him in the most mysterious & dreadful way — poor fellow. Plagued of the foul fiend! Terrible fate! It is so pathetic to see him try to take care of me, leaving his work every hour or so & coming to look after me — "well, how are you feeling now?" or if I am in the garden, "Are you sure you are not cavoorting too much? Please do go & lie down a little while!"

9th Again the morning & no Pinafore, this is the sixth day — tomorrow will be a week, & the grain is out, for the cattle & provisions running very low for humans. Cedric sat by the fire last night while I lay on the couch in mother's room

[*Page 6*]

& every minute we asked each other "What has become of the Pinafore!" & the rain poured in torrents on the roof, as it had poured all day. Still she might have come in the rain, if all had been well for the sea was not so rough as it is sometimes when she struggles with it.

I have really felt better for a few days past & I am so thankful I hardly dare breathe it! Have been able to work a little & rejoice with exceeding joy.

You ask me if I had read the {"}North Shore Watch". Long ago. The Threnody Woodberry* wrote for my cousin Clarence Laighton Dennett whom I never saw. He told me about him & how lovely he was & how he loved him. Woodbury's verse is fine, dont you think so? But I cant get over his calm statement in the Atlantic that Browning never could take rank with the great poets of the age because of his

[*Page 7*]

lack of form — that seems to me a tremendous arrogance of criticism & I have no patience with it.

10th At last, the Pinafore! The storms kept them, & the only calm day Oscar had to go to Boston to see about a steward — Such a mail! It took me all the afternoon to read letters — No word from you, dear Annie. Pray all be well with you. Dear love to you & Pinny* from your

CT.

Notes

Robinson Crusoes: After the novel by British author, Daniel Defoe (1660-1731), in which Crusoe is marooned for 28 years on a tropical desert island.

Pinafore: The *Pinafore* was the Thaxter's small steam tug that carried supplies and people between Portsmouth and Appledore in the Isle of the Shoals during the summer season.

Cedric: Cedric and Oscar Laighton were Thaxter's brothers, owners of the Appledore resort business. Karl was Thaxter's disabled son. Key to Correspondents.

comes his fit: Probably Thaxter alludes to British playwright William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, 1:2, where Cassius reports that when in a fit of fever, the Godlike Caesar betrayed his mortality by trembling.

foul fiend: In Act III of William Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Lear meets Edgar, who is hiding in disguise as a mad beggar. Edgar says he is beset by a foul fiend.

Woodberry: George E. Woodberry. Key to Correspondents. His long poem, "The North Shore Watch" in *The North Shore Watch and Other Poems* (1890) mourns the death of Clarence Laighton Dennett, September 6, 1854 - June 5, 1878. Woodberry's comments on British poet Robert Browning (1812-1889) have not yet been located. Thaxter's husband, Levi Thaxter, was a noted oral interpreter of Browning's poems.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

May 9 1890

My dear Annie Fields

I return the [politics *?*] to the Russian Empire* [as *corrected* thee *?*] said in thy letter, it will do no harm if ^it^ does no good. I fear the autocrat will hold in his present course until he is blown up by a charge of dynamite.

[*Page 2*]

I hope Sarah Jewett is quite well by this time, and that thee are not working too hard in the "Charities"!* The country hereabouts is it seems to me, ^lovelier^ than I have [ever *?*] before seen, so early in May. The dampness however which has called up this green and flowery beauty, has kept me too much in doors, when of late

[*Page 3*]

I ^have^ had rather more pilgrims and interviews than I could comfortably entertain. I wonder if thee has read the Babylonish novel by the Phelps & Ward firm.* I have it but have not yet been able to read it. It does not look to [be inviting *?*]. I don't care much about Nebuchadnezer and his hanging garden nor for Daniel and the lions. I should as soon think of a

[*Page 4*]

[a *repeated*] story of love in the Moon, or the planet Mars. But I have no doubt "The Master of the Magicians" is [able *corrected*] and strong; — all that Elizabeth does is so.

With love to Sarah I am thankfully and affectionately thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

Russian Empire: It seems likely that Whittier refers to Czar Alexander III, the then current ruler of Russia, when he mentions "the autocrat." However, this is not yet certain.

"Charities": Whittier refers to Fields's work with the Associated Charities of Boston.

Babylonish novel by the Phelps & Ward firm: American authors, the couple Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and Herbert Dickinson Ward, published *The Master of the Magicians* in 1890. Key to Correspondents. Whittier's description of the novel as set in Babylon and concerning the Biblical prophet Daniel reflects contemporary advertising and reviews. See for example, *The Homiletic Review* 20 (1890) p. 227.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4832.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*26 May 1890*]*

She fought so long, my little Gemma* — twenty nine weary days — and this morning she went forth in the sunrise. It was so peaceful & beautiful

with her that one can only feel as she felt: but the human heart cries out in pain & must cry — yet knowing that God is greater than our hearts & will console and bless.

Yours

_Sw_

Notes

26 May 1890: The date of Sarah Gemma Timmins's death.

Gemma: Sara Gemma Timmins (1863-1890) was the niece of Martin Brimmer, first director of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (founded 1870). Joel Poudrier explains that Gemma's sister, Minna Elisa Timmins Chapman (1861-1897), was especially close to Whitman, but both sisters were artists and protégées of Whitman. A number of other letters on her death appear in the Whitman letters collection, and at the end is a Whitman poem addressed to Gemma. Sources: Find a Grave and Raguin, *Sarah Wyman Whitman* 1842-1904 (pp. 133-4).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 -107.

Transcription from *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman* (1907)

This letter appeared on p. 67.

May 26, 1890.

She fought so long, my little Gemma, and this morning she went forth in the sunrise. It was so peaceful and beautiful with her that one can only feel as she felt; but the human heart cries out in pain and must cry, yet knowing that God is greater than our hearts and will console and bless.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Claflin Ellis*

South Berwick

27 May 1890

Dear Annie

My sister Mary* and I send you our best thanks for the invitation to your graduation exercises, and are very sorry that it will not be possible for us to accept as we have an engagement at home.

[*Page 2*]

I am sure that it will be both a glad and a sorry day to you, and I send you many kind wishes as you go out into the wider world that lies outside the doors of your school life.

Yours affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

We were all very sorry that you could not come to us a week or two ago.

Notes

Ellis: See her mother, Emma Harding Claflin Ellis in Key to Correspondents.

An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Miss Annie C. Ellis, Bradford Academy, Bradford, Mass. Born in 1870, Ellis would be about 20 years old in May 1890.

Penciled on the back of the envelope in another hand: "Sarah Orne Jewett note & autograph."

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections; Cairns Collection of American Women Writers, Comprehensive collection of works by Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

27 May [*1890*]*

My dear Friend

I send you a little new book of stories which you yourself set me about, and I have given it ^the^ name you suggested and so with a word on the fly leaf I ask

[*Page 2*]

you to take it for yours. But I dont know how to say either in print or in a letter how grateful I am to you always or what a help and pleasure you have been in all my story-writing years.

[*Page 3*]

Please remember me kindly to Judge and Mrs. Cate —* and I am always yours affectionately

Sarah.

[*Page 4*]

Has Mrs. Fields sent you the big photograph of our good senator Edmunds* which we brought you from Washington?

Notes

1890: Jewett's only story collection to come out in May during Whittier's lifetime was *Tales of New England* (1890).

Cate: Judge and Mrs. George W. Cate, who occupied Whittier's house in Amesbury, MA. See *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (1894) by Samuel Thomas Pickard, v. 1, note p. 612.

Edmunds: George Franklin Edmunds (1828-1919) was a Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont. Whittier would have appreciated Edmunds as a fellow abolitionist..

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Tuesday night —

[*May 1890*]*

How good it is to think my darling that you are to be here again in about a week. Shall you come Wednesday. I mean to send Maria and Katy* down on Wednesday morning, and we will follow Friday with Bridget and Patrick and Roger —* It is possible the first detachment will linger until Thursday morning but that will depend upon Mrs Freeland* & her daughter.

What a beautiful fresh wind has [been *?*] and still his blowing — The trees in the "pelouse" wave their arms as if they heard their happier sisters of the wilderness calling to them to follow —

Olga and Mifs O'Brion* came today and brought me some pinks. They were very sweet and interesting — I like them very much.

This morning I went to find out

[*Page 2*]

about [Leza *?*].* I found her brother in the same drinking shop. He said she was doing better{,} that her husband was in a good [hosiery *?*] in So. Boston etc=* but after a while, he confessed that he knew nothing of her — that he had [been *corrected*] ashamed of her and told her not to go there. He has the same untruthful face that she had — only worse — I told him that his business was not only unfortunate but it was becoming dangerous, with the community so opposed to liquor=selling and the sooner he gave it up the better — Yes, he said, he was so young when he went into it! He should know better now — And much more — He was amiable like his sister and I fancy slippery as she is too —

Hill's* last letter to me was unlike any of his others. I have kept it to show you — It was hopeful and grateful and better in every way — The little bit of success with his story has done him a world of good. Mr. [Paine *?*]* has just sent me some interesting things from England{,}

[*Page 3*]

papers and reports —

What a delightful note from Mrs Agassiz* — I re=enclose it at once — and "truly thy friends"* also —

O yes dear the money order came and I will pay [Ricker *?*]* just as soon as I can catch her again —

I hope Celia* is safe on her island once more and that all is well — It is <u>not</u> right for her to leave Karl particularly as she told me Julia her sister was so afraid of him — It must be a sore [cross *?*] to poor Julia for Celia has engaged the rooms just above them for next winter — Poor poor Celia! She is so [*unrecognized adverb*] unhappy and makes others so —

Mr. Millet* is down by the waterside by himself enjoying the view. I have had the steps put up but I have not used them once thus far — what with business and bad weather, but the business is drawing to a close after tomorrow, pretty much — Judy* goes to Nahant tomorrow —

[*Page 4*]

I am trying to get through with errands and put all business behind me because I should like to go to Cambridge once before I go. I shall probably just miss Lowell* but perhaps it is better so —

Good night darling — I long to get you back! Now I must look over Ivanhoe.* I am thinking up things to say at the "Easel party" Thursday night! Mr. Millet and I are more [amused *?*] over the idea than we will ever confess and we laughed last night till we were quite weak [about *corrected*] it — The tickets were the last stroke!! How you would have enjoyed them — Well! "we shall have had our day" !! or evening —

Good night, dearest Pin — After Mary's* garden you will be dismayed at Manchester —- There's scarcely a thing to be seen{.}

[*No signature*]

Notes

1890: This date is a guess that should be close. Fields indicates that she would like to visit James Russell Lowell in Cambridge, MA. Near the end of his life, Lowell moved to the family home, Elmwood, in Cambridge, remaining there from 1889 until his death in August 1891.

Fields typically moved to her summer home in Manchester by the Sea, MA in late May.

Maria and Katy ... Bridget .. Patrick ... Roger: Patrick Lynch and the others are, presumably, members of Fields's staff, except for Roger, a dog.

Mrs Freeland & her daughter: Mrs. Freeland remains as yet unknown. She may be related to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, whose mother was Mary Sophia Freeland (1802-1868). Key to Correspondents.

Olga and Mifs O'Brion: Probably Boston musicians Olga von Radecki and Mary Eliza O'Brion (1859-1930 — unconfirmed life dates). O'Brion was a concert pianist, private teacher, and instructor at Wellesley College. Her name appears regularly on programs as a piano soloist and accompanist with various groups and orchestras. She often performed with the Latvian immigrant composer and pianist Olga von Radecki (1858-1933). Among von Radecki's compositions is a setting of Jewett's poem, "Boat Song."

Leza: Probably one of Fields's clients at Associated Charities, she has not been more fully identified.

etc=: Fields has represented a number of marks with "=" in this letter: a colon as here and more often as a hyphen. I present them here as they appear.

Hills: This person seems to be an author of fiction. He has not yet been identified.

Paine: Probably this is American philanthropist Robert Treat Paine (1835-1910).

Agassiz: Ida Higginson Agassiz. Key to Correspondents.

friend: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Ricker: This transcription is very uncertain, and the person has not been identified.

Celia: Celia Thaxter, her disabled son Karl, and her sister-in-law, Julia Laighton. Key to Correspondents.

Millet: Fields's next-door neighbor, Josiah Millet. Key to Correspondents.

Judy: Judith Drew Beal, Fields's niece by marriage. See Fields in Key to Correspondents.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

Ivanhoe: A novel of 1819, by Scottish author, Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)..

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Oscar Houghton

[*Spring/Summer 1890*]*

Dear Mr. Houghton

I forgot to ask you yesterday about something which interested me very much — Whether Mr. Longman's* took any further interest in the plan of republishing my story-book!

And I wished to ask

[*Page 2*]

too if some copies might not be sent to the London papers this time — the Spectator and Saturday Review [to *meaning* too *?*]. There were excellent notices of The Country Doctor* but I have not seen the titles of the later books* [*deleted word*] on the

[*Page 3*]

'Received' lists. I dare say that they were sent to other papers but these two and Punch are the ones I see myself —

— I do hope that you will not take your drive "up country" without letting me see you in South Berwick. I am pretty

[*Page 4*]

sure to be there most of this summer.

Yours always sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

148 Charles Street
Tuesday morning

Notes

1890: This date is guess. The letter clearly was composed several years after the publication of *A Country Doctor* (1884). That Jewett had one of her fiction titles republished in England in 1891, gives a little support to the possibility that she was talking with Mr. Houghton about separate British publication the year before. In 1890, she was preparing a retrospective collection, *Tales of New England*, which may have given her confidence that she could sell well abroad. See Jewett to Houghton Mifflin of 3 May 1890.

In the upper right corner of page 1, underlined and in another hand: Sarah O. Jewett.

In the upper left corner this note is penciled: "Mr. Smith —— Please see F.J.G. about this. —— "

Houghton refers to Azariah Smith and Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

Garrison has initialed the bottom center of page 4: F.J.G.

Longman's: Jewett refers to the Longman publishing company of London. Longman is not known to have published a Jewett title during her lifetime. The only Jewett title from about this time to be published separately in London seems to be *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1891) by Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.

The Country Doctor: Jewett's novel, *A Country Doctor* (1884).

books: Jewett seems to have placed a period after "books."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

6 Mo 3 1890

My dear Annie Fields

I thank thee for sending me that grand awful and yet, all-hopeful sonnet* — a masterful verse which recalls Dante and Milton.*

Of course thee do not mean in the last ~~verse~~ line but one of the poem to say that the flight was unstained. Could thee not [put *?*] ^it^ something in this way:

——- while unscathed, unstained
The immortal passed beyond the earth's control.

[*Page 2*]

I merely [venture *?*]* the suggestion. Carlyle says people are "mostly fools" and they can only understand what is as plain as a pike-staff.*

How glad I was to [see *corrected*] our dear Sarah* the other day! If she is now with thee thank her for sending Drummond's Africa* to me.

I am grieved to hear of our friend Celia Thaxter's* illness, and am glad thee think of going to see her. I wish I felt able to do likewise.

[*Page 3*]

I venture to send thee a copy of my Haverhill poem* to be read on the [*unrecognized text* — 6th.. *?*] 2nd of July [next *corrected*]. Like every thing "written to order" it {is} rather mechanical and unpoetical — but it is the best I can do under the circumstances. Please keep it to thyself, and dont let any body see it (always excepting Sarah) or know that it is written. It would be disastrous in the extreme for the reporters to get it in advance of its time.*

Ever gratefully thy old friend

John G Whittier

I wish I could see Lowell* and have a talk with him. It is long since I have had that pleasure. Pray give him my

[*Page 4*]

love when thee see ~~him~~ him.

Notes

sonnet: Whittier refers to Fields's "Flammantia Mœnia Mundi." The title comes from Lucretius, "Flaming Walls of the World." The sonnet appeared first in *Atlantic Monthly* in August 1890, p. 235 and was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). Except for adding a comma after "unstained," Fields fully accepted Whittier's suggestion.

Dante and Milton: Italian poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) and British poet John Milton (1608-1674).

venture: This word is Pickard's probably correct reading of difficult handwriting.

a pike-staff: Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), Scottish philosopher and historian. Whittier's sources for attributing these phrases to Carlyle are not yet

known. Perhaps he refers to Carlyle's *Latter-Day Pamphlets*, where he describes the British public as "the twenty-seven millions, many of them fools" (p. 169) and also says, "we are most of us insincere persons, sham talking-machines and hollow windy fools" (p. 216)!

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Drummond's Africa: Henry Drummond (1851-1897), a Scottish evangelist and biologist, wrote *Tropical Africa* (1888).

Celia Thaxter's: Key to Correspondents.

Haverhill poem: John B. Pickard writes in his notes for this letter:

> Whittier's poem "Haverhill" was written for the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the city. The poem was to be read at the exercises on July 2, 1890, with only excerpts printed in the local press, as the complete poem was to appear in the August *Atlantic*. The papers, however, printed a full copy of the poem after the exercises, thus embarrassing the *Atlantic* publication. A full account of the situation is given in [Thomas Franklin] Currier, *A Bibliography, of John Greenleaf Whittie*r, pp. 255-259.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4654. This appears in Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

South Berwick Maine

11 June

[*1890*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

Please send me by express. 10, ten, copies of Tales of New England and two copies in the red binding larger paper, also five, 5, copies of Betty Leicester, and one copy of Dr. Peabody's new Harvard book.

Yours very truly

Sarah O. Jewett

over

[*Page 2*]

Also three copies of Mrs. Fields's Under the Olive.

Notes

1890: In the upper right corner of page 1, blue ink in another hand: "Sarah O. Jewett. 6/12". Near the left corner is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 12 June 1890. To the left of this stamp in the same ink as Jewett's name is a notation that appears to read: "a 153 / c".

After the final request on the right side of page 2 are the initials, J.F.

A check-mark has been penciled before each title Jewett includes, presumably to indicate when that part of the request was completed.

When Jewett writes "over" at the bottom left of page 1, she is pointing to the left half of the folded page upon which the letter is written, which would have been folded away from page 1. On the actual back side of the page is a Riverside Press date stamp: 1 p.m. on 12 June 1890.

Jewett requests copies of the following titles:
- Her two 1890 books, *Tales of New England* and *Betty Leicester*.
- *Under the Olive* (1881), poems by Annie Adams Fields.
- And the "new" Harvard book by Andrew Preston Peabody. Key to Correspondents.

Peabody had published *Harvard Reminiscences* (1888), but new from Houghton Mifflin in 1890 was *Harvard Graduates Whom I Have Known*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Mary Rice Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

South Berwick,

June 16th, 1890

Dear Judge Chamberlain:

I think Miss [Sarah *corrected*] W. Putnam* of Danvers was your sister-in-law, & will you please tell me if she is still living and if so, her address? We are getting a list of the living Alumni for the Centennial of the Academy* here which occurs next year, and slow work we find it. I hope the occasion will be grand enough to pay for the labor expended! With kind regards I am yrs truly

Mary R Jewett

Notes

Putnam: Sarah Webster Putnam Fuller (1821-1908). Find a Grave.

Academy: The centennial celebration of the founding of Berwick Academy was held on 1 July 189l. See *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 670.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick

20 June

[1890]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

Your news takes my breath away, and I confess to something like the feeling I once knew when I had written The Shipwrecked Buttons and, for the pride of my heart, was kindly asked for another

[*Page 2*]

story which proved to be The Girl With the Cannon Dresses.*

Indeed, I send my warmest good wishes to the Atlantic and its editor. I hope that you will find double the pleasure and satisfaction you are looking for in these new duties which are after all neither

[*Page 3*]

new nor untried.

I thank you very much for your kind and cordial note and I will certainly try to have a story ready, though I am ashamed to say that I have hardly got back yet to industrious habits. Will you let me know how much time I can have, please? And

[*Page 4*]

pray believe me always

Yours faithfully and sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: Scudder followed Thomas Bailey Aldrich as editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1890.

Dresses: Both stories appeared in *Riverside Magazine* in 1870, "The Shipwrecked Buttons" in January, "The Girl with the Cannon Dresses" in August.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Helen Choate Pratt Prince to Annie Adams Fields

[*Summer 1890*]*

Dearest Mrs. Fields

A hundred thanks for all the fairings, and a Kiss to dear Miss Jewett* for the books with the name written, which adds so much —

As for Sunday, we are delighted to have the [Burnett *?*]* family, both large and small, although I am afraid the latter will find it but poor fun, as the "Helen" is one of those brats without bulwarks, and

[*Page 2*]

in a [large *?*] caution is necessary — But if you tell them the true state of affairs and still they want to come, they will get the warmest of welcomes —

We are delighted you will join us, and there is ample room for all. So no private talk is needed —

Helen is looking forward with joy to to-morrow, and I am hoping for a bright day —

Affectionately yours

H.C.P.

[Friday *?*]

Notes

1897: I have arbitrarily placed this letter in 1890, though it may have been written nearly any year between about 1887 and 1897. I've chosen a year when the age-range of the children expected to attend would have been about right. If Mabel Burnett's family is correctly identified, then the letter has to come from before her death in late 1898, but in that year, Fields and Jewett were in Europe during the summer.

Jewett: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Burnett .. Helen: The transcription of "Burnett" is uncertain, but if it is correct, it is likely that Prince refers to correspondent Mabel Lowell Burnett (1847-1898). Lowell's 6 children were born between 1873 and 1881.

Prince's daughter, Helen, was born in 1882.

If this letter was composed in 1890, the 7 children who might attend, would have ranged in age from 8 to 17.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item , III. Letters to Annie Adams Fields.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Studio. June 28.

[*1890*]*

Dear I have so often said "it is the best" — and yet now I must [come *?*] and try it again — this time with an added joy — for the Town Poor is so very very beautiful [& true *?*] that I know nothing can have quite reached this [luminous *?*] -celestial level. It has — that thing — which comes when the pitch is high enough, & sustained enough. — it has the

[*Page 2*]

Biblical quality: like Millet's pictures or Homer's verses.*

Dear I love it: & I love you to have written it. — ———-

I have loved you much also in this last fortnight, which has been a time of almost absolute silence: & a period of great peace & refreshment, when one could sit still & listen to the voices. I have worked in town by day & gone down & sat by the shore, & seen the stars shine — sometimes even the dawn come up — & have found it very good.

[*Page 3*]

I feel great courage: while the little child seems not so very far away. —

Shall we meet soon? God bless you.

Sw_*

Notes

1890: Jewett's short story, "The Town Poor," mentioned in this letter, appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* for July 1890.

Millet .. Homer: Jean-François Millet (1814 -1875) was a French painter, known for his painting of peasant life and rural scenes.

If the transcription of "Homer" is correct, then Whitman refers to the legendary Greek author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

Sw_: Whitman varies in this signature from her typical long line beneath the initials. Instead she draws an extended >.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 -107.

Transcription from *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman* (1907)

Part of this letter appeared on pp. 67-8.

June 28, 1890

This last fortnight, which has been a time of almost absolute silence; and a period of great peace and refreshment when one could sit still and listen to the voices, I have worked in town by day and gone down and sat by the shore and seen the stars shine; sometimes even the dawn come up, and have found it very good.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Saturday morning, [June 1890]*

I am waiting for your letter to come, and it seems a long half hour. A thriftless person when there are so many things to do, but somehow I did not get to sleep last night, except for two or three naps which were rather too uneasy for comfort. I had one most beautiful time which was after your own heart. It began to be light, and after spending some time half out of the window hearing one bird tune up after another, I half dressed myself and went out and stayed until it was bright day-light. I went up the street and out into the garden, where I had a beautiful time, and was neighborly with the hop-toads and with a joyful robin who was sitting on a corner of the barn, and I became very intimate with a big poppy which had made every arrangement to bloom as soon as the sun same up. There was a bright little waning moon over the hill, where I had a great mind to go, but there seemed to be difficulties, as I might be missed, or somebody might break into the house where I had broken out. Weren't you awake, too, very early? I thought so, and I was equally certain that other

people were asleep. Really, so much happened in that hour that I could make a book of it — I had a great temptation to go to writing.*

I have done so many things today that I should like to write down them and see what they were. There was a piece gone off the top of the three gilded feathers on the breakfast room looking-glass, so I carved a feather top out of pine wood and stuck it on and gilded it most satisfactorily, and then I set Stubby* and an impoverished friend who needed money for the Fourth* to digging plantains out of the grass at fifteen cents the hundred, whereupon they doubled their diligence until they got 1.65 out of me at dinner time!! And I transplanted a lot of little sunflowers and put hellebore* on the gooseberry bushes and wrote a lot of notes for the "Berwick Scholar" on account of the Centennial arrangements,* and went down street twice and — but I won't tell you, yes, I will — the little Beverly doggie came by express! and is ardently beloved by Stubs, and that took time, and after dinner I went to Beaver Dam* with John about a carriage painter and another errand, and then I dressed me all up and went and made two elegant calls, and then I came home and wrote this.

Notes

1890: Fields dates this letter 1889, but it almost certainly is from 1890. The Berwick Academy Centennial Celebration took place on July 1, 1891, which also is the publication date for the memorial booklet that Jewett edited, supplying a preface. Nephew Stubby (Theodore Eastman), born in 1879, is raising money for the July 4 celebration, indicating that the holiday is not far in the future. It is possible that Jewett was preparing notes in June of 1891, but these probably would have had to be completed in the previous summer to make it possible to meet the July 1891 date. See also her March 1891 publication of plans for the celebration in *The Berwick Scholar*.

to go to writing: Jewett recounts a similar incident in "The Confession of a House-Breaker," in *The Mate of the Daylight* (1884). A version of this sketch also appeared anonymously in *The Atlantic* (September 1883: 419-22).

Stubby: Jewett's nephew, Theodore Eastman.

hellebore: dried and powdered extract from false hellebores (*Veratrum*) is used as an insecticide.

the Fourth: American July 4 or Independence Day holiday.

"Berwick Scholar" ... Centennial arrangements: The Berwick Academy centennial took place in 1891, the academy having been founded in 1791. See Jewett's "The Old Town of Berwick." Jewett contributed several pieces for *The Berwick Scholar*, the school magazine founded in 1887. She helped with the Centennial arrangements of her alma mater, contributing to the *Scholar* an article, "The Centennial Celebration" in v. 4 (March 1891) and editing a memorial booklet of the occasion.

Beaver Dam: Beaver Dam is a section of the town of Berwick, about half way between Berwick and North Berwick on State Route 9. There is private Beaver Dam Campground there now, and also a summer theater, the Hackmatack Playhouse, and at one time there was a Beaver Dam Grange in this section. Research: Art Stansfield of Lexington, Ky.

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911),

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Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

July, 1890.

Strangely enough that impulse for out of doors work has not yet taken me in its thrall. By this time, usually, of a summer I am dying to be out in it and at it; but the deep solemn inner living of this year has kept me in a place apart; and I am still there, though the routine life goes on, and I apparently with it.

Note

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick

3 July 1890

Dear Mr. Scudder

I wish that you would be kind enough to look over this sketch and see if you think it is worth printing. I wrote it some months ago and then put it by, but Mr. Aldrich* insists that I don't know the best work I can do when I see it,

[*Page 2*]

and never has ceased to speak of my undervaluing The Dulham Ladies!*

I should not send this, however, "on the chance'* unless I were very doubtful about finishing another sketch which I began for you. My mother has been very ill in these last two weeks and now that she is getting better I

[*Page 3*]

don't feel [*deletion*] quite in condition for my work — and I am half afraid that, if I went on with the new sketch, it wouldn't be so good as this one that I send. So I boldly risk being a rejected contributor at the start!!

Yours ever sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

on the chance: Jewett seems to have used a quotation mark at the beginning of this phrase and a single quotation mark at the end.

Presumably Jewett speaks of the first piece she submitted to Scudder after he assumed editorship at *Atlantic Monthly* in 1890. This was a productive year for Jewett. She published seven stories after July, but only one in *Atlantic*, "By the Morning Boat," in October. However this almost certainly was not what Jewett sent Scudder with this letter. See Jewett to Scudder of 24 July 1890.

Ladies: Jewett's story appeared in *Atlantic* in April 1886.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett

Beverly July 7th

being Monday

[*1890*]*

Dearest S. O. J.,

Though I had no idea whether you were in Manchester or in Berwick just now, & hardly expected it would prove Manchester, it really was disappointing then to miss seeing you by so close a shave! Mamma too was so sorry to miss Mrs Fields; she so seldom gets down the shore so far. But we have a new beach-wagon, much less bone-breaking than the old phaeton, & I hope to persuade her to drive more now.

We saw Mrs. Howe* yesterday after we left Mrs. Fields's, & so gleaned a little news of Mrs. Fields and of you. I am so very sorry to hear that your mother has not been well, & that it is that which makes your Manchester visits such [flying *corrected*] ones. Such anxiety is hard to bear —

[*Page 2*]

as I know only too well — but you are better & braver than I am — the two things I hate worst in life are anxiety & responsibility — of course it is an unavoidable evil when one has reached years of discretion, but no words can say how I hate this pair of brothers!

Not that I have been afflicted by them lately, we have all been well, happily, & I have quite recovered from my only ailment, blue devils. Ellis* is with us for the rest of the summer, & it is delightful to see him looking & seeming really well — he is really almost fat, if one can apply the term to so long & thin a creature, & his nose peels daily like an onion — being the result of lawn-tennis in the sun when the thermom. in the shade is climbing about in the eighties.

The Ross Turner* lessons are over; they have been a great pleasure & a great help, & have really put new courage & new enthusiasm into me. There was an Exhibition of all the pupils'

[*Page 3*]

work at Mr. Turner's Studio in Salem & I had two sketches "on the line." There were so many better ones that mine looked quite feeble & insignificant, there is nothing like exhibiting in a mixed collection for taking down the little pride one may have left! the small remnant remaining after having been "sat upon" artistically by such a master as Ross Turner during a term of four weeks!

— I am still deep in paint — & have many plans for meeting some of the scholars who are still in Salem, & sketching with them, both there & here in our neighborhood. —

Today I have been painting "up country" — at a most fascinating old place, which made me long for you; you would make a picture in a story of it much better than I could paint it, & you would make such a story about the two old people in it. The house is over a hundred years old, with a

grape-vine for a piazza-roof, & roses & larkspur growing in front of it,

[*Page 4*]

& the old man is said to be the "oldest inhabitant" of these parts, a blear-eyed pathetic looking creature, but still able to do his day's work — He asked me where I lived, & said "Oh yes, down by John Preston's! — did I know John? — And had Frank's wife come back? — So I said I didn't know, & pretended I knew she had gone away!

I went into the house to get some water to paint with, & the old woman gave me some; she looked like an ogress in a faded calico, & seemed to be quite feeble-minded, & grinned & jabbered at me & at the hens impartially. The hens & ducks were pervading the place, & seemed to be laying their eggs about promiscuously in the bushes. I nearly sat on one ^an egg, not a hen^ & then took it to the old man, with some allusion to a hen, and he didn't say thank you, but remarked severely "That bean't a hen's egg, that be a duck's!" & I felt decidedly snubbed, & very ignorant & citified! —

[*Page 5*]

I hear you have a story in an Atlantic,* & I am going to hunt it up immediately. I have been immersed in paint since we last met, to the exclusion of all else, & have not even read the papers regularly, or I should have found the story sooner. My Aunt, Miss King,* informed me where & how you had written it, which I regret to state quite irritated my feelings, & I felt quite abused to be told second-hand — though probably it was the satisfaction it gave my informant ^to thus instruct me^ which chiefly "made my angry passions rise"! I think I am not at all a nice sort of niece, & I quite sympathize with them for not having a satisfactory one, like Betty Leicester* for instance! They are really quite kind to me — such birthday presents for instance! — but I am not at all the typical niece, & we are always rubbing each other up the wrong way in consequence.

[*Page 6*]

Ellis would make a much better one, he is much more interested in their afghans & flower-beds than I am! In fact he has a number of good qualities that are quite wasted on a boy.

Have you been reading the [Anglomanides* *?*]? So far it is certainly very clever & entertaining. Have you an idea who the author is? it must be a practiced hand — is it possibly Henry James? do you recognized any one else in the style?

Do you remember you told me to get Rudyard Kipling's "Plain Tales from the Hills" for Marianne?* I must tell you how well you knew. She is quite enchanted with it, & evidently liked it better than anything I had sent for a long while. I think they are very remarkable, [*deletion*] but I like his stories in [small *corrected*] doses, I find them rather a strong diet — just what Marianne likes! Still one can like both kinds — these & the more reflective kind —

[*Page 7*]

which of Kipling's did you particularly like? I think "Thrown Away" [is *corrected*] one of the best — it is so simply told, & not a vestige of Sentimentality which would have spoiled it all. & I like "Lispeth" — (the story of the native-girl —) & "The madness of Private Ortheris—" "Venus Anno domini" is a nice sketch — & some of the funny ones. Mamma read one or two of the more sensational, which she said made her blood curdle, and now she won't read any more of the book!

Marianne has been sending me some German books, but I have not been reading anything lately, excepting "Vanity Fair;"* — in the evenings I am too sleepy, and by day I am too busy with painting & other things . . — letters to Marianne occasionally for instance!

I did not mean to treat you to so large a dose when I began, and only hope it will reach you in a leisure minute —

[*Page 8*]

And it doesn't mean that you should answer it, unless you feel an inspiration some very rainy day; I think you know that I like to have news of you, but if I thought ~~y~~ my letters put the burden of answering on you, I would never write you another. So if you don't want any more notes, ever, from me, you now know how to put it! (Please untangle this suggestion for yourself!)

I enclose a portrait of "Tommy Tucker", the family kitten, indulging in his favorite insane pastime of sitting on the back of a chair & trying to catch his tail through the bars of the chair-back { — } you know his infancy was passed in a card-board box in the Boston ~~drawing~~ ^dining^-room, & we think he is a living proof of the effects of early education! —

Dear S.O.J., I hope you are well yourself, & doing some work, or getting satisfaction in some [other *corrected*] way.

[*Across the top margin and up the right margin of page 1*]

I hope too that your mother is better — on every account, not only hers — for I know that Mrs Fields must be very lonely in Manchester without you, & when I think of her, I don't dare to remember even how much I should like to see a little more of you during the summer.

with love, always yours

Loulie.

Notes

1890: While this date is not certain, it is supported by Dresel's accounts of her activities, including lessons with Ross Sterling and her mentioning the health of Jewett's mother, who died the following year, and having read *Betty Leicester*, published in 1890. July 7 fell on a Monday in 1890.

Howe: Susan Burley Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Ellis: Dresel's younger brother. Key to Correspondents.

Ross Turner: According to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Ross Sterling Turner (1847-1914), "was a painter, watercolorist, and illustrator, active in the Boston area, known for his landscapes and floral subjects." See Dresel to Jewett of 10 March 1892.

John Preston's: Dresel has written an exclamation mark and a question mark, one over the other. I believe she probably intended the exclamation mark. The identity of this person is not yet known.

story in an Atlantic: In July 1890, Jewett's new *Atlantic* story would have been "The Town Poor."

Miss King: Caroline Howard King. Key to Correspondents.

Betty Leicester: The protagonist of Jewett's novel, *Betty Leicester: A Story for Girls* (1890). She appeared first in "A Bit of Color" in 1889, which was further developed into the novel.

Anglomanides: This appears to be what Dresel wrote, and she seems to assume that Jewett would be familiar with it, as if it were appearing in serial in a magazine. However, I have failed to find any reference to it on the World Wide Web.

For Henry James see Key to Correspondents. *Rudyard Kipling's ... Marianne*: See Key to Correspondents for Kipling and Marianne Brockhaus.

Plain Tales from the Hills" (1888) was Kipling's first collection of prose.

When Dresel mentions titles from this collection, she is not consistent about using subscripts for her open quotation marks. I have transcribed them as they appear to me.

Vanity Fair: British author, William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863) published his novel, *Vanity Fair, in 1848.*

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College in the Ellis Gray Loring family Papers, 1824-1925: Call Number: A-115; Box 2.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Eliot*

July 18, 1890

My dear Friend,

I am glad to be almost in hailing distance of thee, at this charming house overlooking the Piscataqua & the green farm-lawn of Eliot, only wishing I felt able to ride over and see thee. I am not well but I am here under favorable circumstances, and as far as neuralgia will let me I shall like Falstaff "take mine ease in mine own inn.{"}* Will thee not, as thy mother's health improves, come and see us? I have not heard from our beloved Annie Fields for some time. Perhaps she will visit thee and come with thee.

[*Page 2*]

That last story of thine in the Atlantic was one of thy best — true to the old life in N.E.. The pathos of it brought tears to my eyes. I have got two old women, who ran away from the Amesbury poor-house, to take care of as far as I can. Sarah Farmer who is as much of an angel as humanity allows of is very kind ^and^ neighborly, and my friend Atwood is with us from Providence. He loves thy work, and would be glad to see thee.

With a great deal of love thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

Eliot: In *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (v. 2, p. 747) Samuel T. Pickard says, "A few weeks of the summer of 1890 were spent by Mr. Whittier at a quiet and pleasant place on the Piscataqua River, in Eliot, Maine, known as "Green Acre."

This letter is on lined paper.

Falstaff "take mine ease....": See William Shakespeare, *Henry IV*, Part 1, III,3, where Falstaff asks, "Shall I not take mine ease in mine inn, but I shall have my pocket picked?"

Amesbury poor house: The two old women running away from the poor house point toward Jewett's story, "The Flight of Betsy Lane," which appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* in August 1893, after Whittier's death. Therefore, Whittier almost certainly refers to "The Town Poor," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in July 1890.

Sarah Farmer: The Farmer family owned Green Acre, from which Whittier writes. In 1894, Sarah Jane Farmer (1847-1916) founded the Green Acre Bahá'í School on the farm.

friend Atwood: Probably Reverend Julius W. Atwood, who frequently spent extended time with Whittier in summers after 1884. Julius Walter Atwood (1857-1945) was born in Salisbury, VT and studied at Middlebury College and The Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, MA. His wife was Anna Richmond (d. 1907). In the 1890s, he was rector of St. James' Church in Providence, RI. In 1911-1925, he served as missionary bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. Find a Grave and *Who's Who in Arizona* (1913), p. 421.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. Transcription by John Richardson.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday ——-

[*20-21 July 1890*]*

Dearest Fuff —

I have sent many a thought to you today and wished with all my heart I could see you! It must have been a lovely Sunday at Manchester — one we like best with such bright sunlight and quick showers. I sat by a window to my disadvantage yesterday writing a letter and talking by turns with Mother, and I have

[*Page 2*]

been stiff in my back, and very groansome! There hasn't been much to [do *corrected*] but to lie on the bed in peace and read Mrs. Oliphants* beautiful stories, and after I finished those I turned to the Virginians* which I haven't quite finished yet.

(I send you Katy Bradbury's* letter which is full of interesting things. Mary* had been reading about the Antigone*

[*Page 3*]

and was much interested in that part of the letter, but I missed the account of it somehow. And) I send too a nice little letter from thy friend* which of course I want to keep. If tomorrow is a good day I hope to drive down to take tea with him.

You will observe that he spreads his nets wide for you! so if you possibly can — do come here for a day by and by and we will

[*Page 4*]

go down! I suppose you will think it is easier to journey to his neighbouring town of Danvers a little later in the season !! I am so glad he likes the Town Poor.* ——-

Monday (Carrie* was going on a drive yesterday and I sent some flowers to "Gertrude."* They [saw *corrected*] thy friend too, but he was low in his mind with a neuralgia poor old man.

I hope this bright sun [to do *intending* today *?*] will cure him. Isn't K.B.'s letter delightful about Southwell & Newark? (?)*) but what did you think of G. Sand's letter to Madame d'Agoult?* that long letter at the beginning of the book. I

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

couldn't bear to have you read it without standing by and seeing how you liked it! Nothing ever made me feel that I really know Madame Sand as that letter did. (* But good morning dear heart from your own Pinny.*

(Do tell her what the "troublesome things were" when you first got

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 2*]

back. All the letters you sent were such nice ones. Yours most lovingly

P.L.

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 3*]

I am writing a sketch little by little called By the Morning Boat* about a boy who is leaving his home on the shore (like the little houses we have just seen near Boothbay)* and going to Boston* to go into business. I think you will like it.

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 4*]

(It was suggested by Henry Vaughan's* going and seeing his father's* mother's faces as he sailed off.

How nice — to have seen Miss Curtis & Mrs Barnard!*)

Notes

20-21 July 1890: This letter was composed soon after the appearance of Jewett's story, "The Town Poor" in July 1890 and after receiving Whittier's 18 July letter praising that story. I have dated it on the following Sunday and Monday. See notes below.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled mainly in green by Fields. All but one of her marks in the marginal writing are in black, probably pencil.

Mrs. Oliphant's: Scottish author Margaret Oliphant Wilson Oliphant (1828 - 1897). In 1890, her most recent volume of short stories was *Neighbours on the Green* (1889).

the Virginians: This is not American author Owen Wister's 1902 novel, *The Virginian*, but British novelist William Makepeace Thackeray's (1811-1863) historical novel of 1857-59, a sequel to *Henry Esmond* (1852).

Katy Bradury's: Kate Bradbury. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

the Antigone: Antigone, daughter of Oedipus of Thebes, is best known as the protagonist of a tragedy of the same name by the classical Greek dramatist, Sophocles (497-406 B.C.) But many other references are possible, in history, myth and visual art. It is not clear, then, without access to Bradbury's letter exactly what has interested Mary Jewett.

thy friend: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

the Town Poor: Jewett's "The Town Poor" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in July 1890. Whittier's letter to Jewett expressing pleasure in her story is dated July 18, 1890.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

"Gertrude": See Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

saw: Someone, perhaps Fields, has inserted above this word a more readable "saw."

K.B.'s ... Southwell and Newark: Kate Bradbury. Southwell and Newark-on-Trent are towns about 140 miles north of London in Great Britain and about 80 miles southeast of Bradbury's home near Ashton-under-Lyne.

? (?): While other parentheses marks in this letter are fairly clearly by Fields, these around the question mark may be by Jewett.

G. Sand's letter to Madame d'Agoult: It seems likely that Jewett is reading *Letters of George Sand* volume 1 (1886), translated and edited by Raphaël Ledos de Beaufort (pp. 202-4).

did. (: This parenthesis mark by Fields is in green, but appears to have been deleted in black pencil.

Pinny: Pinny and P.L. were Jewett nicknames.

By the Morning Boat: Jewett's "By the Morning Boat" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in October 1890.

Boothbay) ... Boston: The parentheses around this clause are by Jewett. She also has rendered "Boston" extra large and in print rather than longhand.

Henry Vaughan's: Henry Goodwin Vaughan (1868-1938), who in 1890 was married to Sara Olea Bull (1871 - 1911), daughter of Jewett's friend, Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Curtis & Mrs Barnard: The transcription of both names is uncertain. Possibly, Jewett refers to Alice May Curtis (1871-1961), a photographer. Curtis lived with Olivia Yardley Bowditch (1842-1928) in the Bowditch family home at 506 Beacon Street until about 1908. The couple traveled often in Europe, where Curtis took photos. Bowditch was the daughter of Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch (1808-1892), Harvard Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Olivia Jane Yardley (1816-1890). The family was deeply involved in various reforms, including abolition and woman suffrage.

Mrs. Barnard *may* be the journalist Helen M. Barnard, also an activist for woman suffrage. Barnard worked as a journalist for the New York *Herald*, and served the U. S. government in various capacities. The *Washington Times* of 22 July 1914 (p. 7) says that she was one of the first two female reporters allowed to attend and cover the United States Senate: "Later Mrs. Barnard, under Grant's Administration, was sent to Liverpool as immigration commissioner. She visited England, Ireland, and Scotland. She returned on the steerage of an ocean liner and gave one of the most interesting and useful

reports made on the subject of immigration." The Los Angeles *Herald* of 27 May 1888 (p. 6) says: "Helen M. Barnard was, and is, a regal woman, earnest, thoughtful and profound. Her forte was politics, in which she displayed extraordinary sagacity. She is now a staid married woman, resides in New York City, and is editing a special monthly journal." The description of a letter of introduction by James A. Garfield, then an Ohio congressman, presenting her to E. B. Washburne, then U. S. Minister at Paris, France, says: "Barnard was a government clerk, journalist, and an original member of the Universal Franchise Association, and an associate of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

[*25 July 1890*]*

My poor little girl I know it all, and I send you [honest *?*] sympathy and hold you close to my heart. Give my love to your dear mother and Ellis. I say that I know the sorrow but thank God! I know the comfort too that comes only to those who

[*Page 2*]

mourn. For the first time too, you will feel as if you really knew and loved and understood your dear father. You will find him closer to you than ever. I hope to see you very soon. God bless you dear Loulie and make you more than ever a blessing.

Yours faithfully

S.O.J

Notes

1890: Dresel's father, Otto, died on 25 July 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman and Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick Maine

23 July, 1890

My dear Friends

I began a letter to you the very week you went away but I did not finish it for my mother has been most dangerously ill and only just now begins to seem as if she were getting well again. We have felt very anxious all these long weeks.

I really [*deleted letters*] am in a great hurry now to know where you are and what you have been doing.

[*Page 2*]

I was so overwhelmed when I got word of the change in the Atlantic's fortunes* that I don't feel free to express myself even yet! But this I can say, that I am most grateful ^for^ and unforgetful of all the patience and kindness which my dear friend the editor has given me in these years that are past. One day I saw in the [*deleted letters*] Nation that "one has learned to look for Miss Jewett's best work in the

[*Page 3*]

pages of the Atlantic" but I could read something deeper still between those lines and gladly owned to myself that it was ^due^ to many suggestions and much helpfulness that my sketches have a great deal of their ^(possible)^ value — I have been taught so many lessons and been kept toward a better direction than I could have found for myself. If I were not looking eagerly for your new work, dear Mr. T. B. A.

[*Page 4*]

and were not thankful that your time was your own now for your works sake, I should lament more loudly than I do [*deleted letters*] over the magazine's loss. (Mr. Scudder is industrious and conscientious, but he cannot do what you have done, for heaven hasn't sent the gift and so we mustn't expect the performance. He sent me a very kind little note which was the first news I had of the change. And asked me for a sketch for his

[*Page 5*]

first number which I was sorry not to send, but it was just at the time when I was most busy and worried here at home.

I have seen very little of our dear A.F.* who is at Manchester and just now has Miss von

Blomberg* with her, but she was pretty lonely through June, and I wished over and over again for her sake that she was in England

[*Page 6*]

or somewhere else than Manchester. That dear house is either the saddest or the happiest place in the world to her and this year she found it very hard to be there at first, and as it happened, much of the time alone.)

I wonder if you will go to Paris, and if you will see Madame Blanc?* I had a delightful letter from her not long ago written in the South of France and

[*Page 7*]

sounding like one of George Sand's, say from the second volume of her Correspondence!* She sent me a volume of S.O.J. all in French, which caused such pride of heart that no further remarks are ventured upon the subject!

(Do write me some day, dear Lilian and dear T.B.! I only ask for a little letter for I know how hard it is to find time for anybody else with all your home

[*Page 8*]

letters.) If Mrs. Fields and I should go over to England another year we must have you go too and we will plan such a holiday together of a week or a fortnight that it makes me laugh to think of it. Somehow I think we are going to have more time to play together now! (Give my love to Mr. Pierce* if you are still together and) do not forget how truly and affectionately I am ever your friend

"Sadie"*

Notes

change in the "Atlantic's" fortunes: Aldrich left the editorship of the *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1890, to be replaced by Horace Scudder (1838-1902), who served 1890-1898. (Source: Cary, *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*, pp. 64-5). Jewett's relations with Scudder were less cordial than those with Aldrich; see Ellery Sedgwick, "Horace Scudder and Sarah Orne Jewett: Market Forces in Publishing in the 1890s" in *American Periodicals* 2 (Fall 1992), pp. 79-88.

A. F.: Annie Fields (1834-1915). Key to Correspondents.

Miss von Blomberg: Baroness Eva von Blomberg. Key to Correspondents.

alone): This long passage in parentheses was omitted in the Annie Fields transcription. Probably, then, she added the parenthesis marks. Fields probably is responsible for setting off two other passages of this letter in parentheses.

Madame Blanc: Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc. Key to Correspondents.

Mme. Blanc's translation of Jewett's *A Country Doctor* (1884) appeared in 1890.

George Sand ... Correspondence: Probably George Sand's *Correspondance 1812-1876* (Paris 1882), in six volumes. WorldCat's earliest listing for Madame Blanc-Bentzon's translation of Jewett's *A Country Doctor* is *Le roman de la femme-médecin ; suivi de Récits de la Nouvelle-Angleterre* par Sarah Orne Jewett; préface de Th. Bentzon. Traduction autorisée, J. Hetzel (Paris) 1890.

Mr. Pierce: Henry Lille Pierce. Key to Correspondents.

"Sadie": Sadie Martinot was a Jewett nickname with the Aldriches, presumably after the American actress and singer, Sarah/Sadie Martinot. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Annie Fields Transcription

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

My dear Friends, — I began a letter to you the very week you went away, but I did not finish it, for my mother has been most dangerously ill, and only just now begins to seem as if she were getting well again. We have felt very anxious all these long weeks. I really am in a great hurry now to know where you are and what you have been doing. I was so overwhelmed when I got word of the change in the "Atlantic's" fortunes* that I don't feel free to express myself even yet! But this I can say, that I am most grateful for and unforgetful of all the patience and kindness which my dear friend the editor has given me in these years that are past. One day I saw in the "Nation" that "one has learned to look for Miss Jewett's best work in the pages of the 'Atlantic'"; but I could read something deeper still between those lines and gladly owned to myself that it was due to many suggestions and much helpfulness that my sketches have a great

deal of their (possible) value. I have been taught so many lessons and been kept toward a better direction than I could have found for myself. If I were not looking eagerly for your new work, dear Mr. T. B. A., and were not thankful that your time was your own now for your work's sake, I should lament more loudly than I do over the magazine's loss.

I wonder if you will go to Paris, and if you will see Madame Blanc? I had a delightful letter from her not long ago, written in the South of France, and sounding like one of George Sand's, say from the second volume of her Correspondence!* She sent me a volume of S.O.J. all in French, which caused such pride of heart that no further remarks are ventured upon the subject!

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick

24 July 1890

Dear Mr. Scudder

I send you this sketch — By the Morning Boat* which I am pretty sure you will like better than the other which is good (and tame!) enough but never belonged to the Atlantic. I should not have sent it to you under other circumstances, ~~and~~ ^or^ if I had not

[*Page 2*]

wished so much to be in your first number. The House has paid me fifteen dollars a page or thereabouts, on acceptance, in these later years of a long and industrious career, but I continue to make believe that I am still beginning in the Riverside! You and Miss Francis* must be kind as you begin

[*Page 3*]

to discover signs of decadence, but I perceive that I take too mournful a strain for a business letter!

Yours ever sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Boat: Jewett's story appeared in *Atlantic* on October 1890 and was collected in *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1890).

Francis: Richard Cary notes: "Susan Moore Francis (1839-1919), graceful essayist and book reviewer, came to the *Atlantic* as editorial assistant during the incumbency of James T. Fields and served the five succeeding editors in similar capacity. Reputed to have an uncanny flair for judging manuscripts, she is credited with suggesting to Fields that he invite Bret Harte to contribute to the *Atlantic,* but she is also said to have turned down *David Harum* because it was 'vulgar.'"

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Mabel Lowell Burnett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Nichewaug

Tuesday

[*July 1890*]*

Dear Sarah

"Oh wer't thou in the cauld blast." as the song says, nothing on earth would induce me to shelter thee, on the [contrary *?*] I would come right out and sit in it with you, and tell you that Petersham is a fraud — It is pretty, but whew! aint it hot? Last night as I lay awake sweltering, I could think of nothing but the sound of the pictures in the [lab *?*] at Gambrel Cottage,* as they move gently back and forth in the crisp sea breeze —

[*Page 2*]

just to think of it made me wretched, and I couldn't think of anything else — There isn't anything to do here, and for that reason I can't write. When I am [hurried *?*] to death, and all tired out, then my soul longs to commune with other scenes — but now — I have about as much life as a fresh water mussel taken out of a nice hot pool. I hope my cough is better, at any rate I do have moments when it lets me alone, so that is an improvement. I hear very good news from Elmwood. Papa speaks of some "domestic despot" whose absence enables them to do all sorts of things{.} I can't imagine what he means

[*Page 3*]

can you? In its absence he is going to buy a [Victoria *?*],* think of us — and think of George driving it — have you ever seen George? Papa says in his last letter "George continues to mow the lawn with his two machines, one of which perfects the roughness left by the other. His air

when mounted on the horse-machine puts me in mind of Neptune in the Iliad{.}" That is better than anything I can say, so I shall end with that{.} Every body here is most kind, each one has offered me an absolutely, infallible cure for a cough — but I stick to my cod liver oil, which cured me once — and which Dr Robinson* thinks will again — he thought Dr [Steldout *?*] ought to have told me in the beginning

[*Page 4*]

how serious the trouble was, so that I might have [*two unrecognized words*] more careful — but at any rate, he said he was sure I should get over it and I believe him — I don't know whether you heard that Dr. [Lyman *?*] finally brought Dr. Minot to see Papa, and Dr M. said he could find absolutely nothing wrong about him — this for Dr M. who is said to take gloomy views, usually, was very encouraging. And Papa began to feel better at once. I am sorry to say that [Lyman *?*] is going abroad next week, which will be a great loss to Papa, who depended upon seeing him every other day. There [here *?*] is the end of my paper.

Have you read "[*Unrecognized title*]" by [*Unrecognized name*]; it is [*unrecognized word*] I think. Dearest love to Mrs F.* Yours affectionately M.L.B.

Notes

1889-1890: This letter almost certainly was composed after Burnett's father, James Russell Lowell, took up his last residence in the family home at Elmwood, in Cambridge, MA — 1889 — and probably before his final illness in the summer of 1891. I have placed it in July 1890, believing this is a reasonably likely date.

Diagonally to the left of "Dear Sarah" on page 1 in another hand is the note: M.L.B.

Blast: "O, Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast" is a poem by Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796).

Gambrel Cottage: One of the names given to Annie Fields's summer home in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA.

Victoria: Burnett refers to a Victoria carriage, a four-wheeled open horse-drawn carriage. George, the likely driver, apparently is a Lowell family employee.

Neptune in the Iliad: Poseidon, Greek god of the sea, (Neptune for the Romans) at various times assists the Greeks in their siege of Troy in *The Iliad* (c. 7th century B.C.) by the legendary Greek poet, Homer.

Dr. Robinson ... Steldout ... Lyman ... Minot: The transcriptions of Steldout and Lyman are very uncertain, and they have not been identified. Dr. Robinson also remains unknown. Probably, Mr. Lowell's doctor was Dr. James Jackson Minot (1852-1938).

Mrs. F: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743.1 (14). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

Manchester, Mass

First of August

[1890]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

I had given up the idea of making up a new book of stories this autumn because I thought that Tales of New England would in a measure take the place of it. But if you think that it would be a good plan, and

[*Page 2*]

a better piece of business than to wait until the spring, I shall be glad to abide by your judgment. There are more than enough stories for a volume and I could put them together with very little trouble. I shall be leaving here Monday morning and

[*Page 3*]

I can go into town and see about it at any hour between a little after ten o'clock and three.

I thank you for your kind note and I am very glad that you liked the sketch.*

- My sister enjoyed seeing you and Mrs. Scudder very much indeed. I think that it must be pleasanter

[*Page 4*]

than ever this summer at Little Boar's Head — for she has so many pleasant tales to tell!

Believe me

Yours faithfully,

S. O. Jewett

I shall be at South Berwick after leaving here and I will remember to keep you advised on account of the proofs.

Notes

1890: Richard Cary assigned this date because 1890 was the publication year for *Tales of New England* and *Strangers and Wayfarers.* He also noted that the sketch Jewett mentions was "By the Morning Boat," *Atlantic Monthly,* LXVI (October 1890), 518-525; collected in *Strangers and Wayfarers.*

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Edwin Lassetter Bynner to Sarah Orne Jewett

102 P. O. Bdg, Boston

Aug: 4. '90

My dear Mifs Jewett.

I have an irresistible impulse to tell you how delighted I am with The Town Poor;* besides its perfection in a literary way as a genre which its pathos (so humble and direct) proved

[*Page 2*]

so effective that on three different occasions when I read it aloud to different circles of friends I was badly shipwrecked and let me add that I am a veteran & hardened mariner of the pathetic main{.}

My intense appreciation of your work is due doubtless to the fact that my early years were passed on a farm in central Massachusetts{.}

[*Page 3*]

I knew all that life well and had you struck one false note I should have [winced *?*]. As it is it deserves to be placed beside "Mifs Tempy"* and I need say no more.

Very Cordially Yours

Edwin L. Bynner.

Notes

The Town Poor: Jewett's "The Town Poor" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, July 1890.

"Miss Tempy": Jewett's "Miss Tempy's Watchers" appeared in *Atlantic*, March 1888.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 1, Item 35 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edwin Lassiter Bynner

Manchester by the Sea

Tuesday 5th of August.

[1*890*]*

My dear Mr. Bynner

I send you my best thanks for your most kind and delightful note. I cannot tell you what pleasure your words give me, for praise that comes from the writer of your own beautiful work is praise indeed! But

[*Page 2*]

you love this New England country as few people can love it; I know how truly you speak of such love and pride, and I am heartily glad because you find my sketches not untrue as far as they go. I shall not forget how you have spoken of "Miss Tempy" and the "Town Poor" — and I thank you indeed for your letter. Believe me with high regard

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: Associated with this letter is an enveloped addressed to Edwin L. Bynner in Boston, and cancelled on 6 August 1890. And see Bynner to Jewett of 4 August 1890.

Poor: Jewett's "Miss Tempy's Watchers" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in March 1888. "The Town Poor" was in *Atlantic* in July 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; the Witter Bynner Papers, Series: III. Family letters, bMS Am 1891 Box 35 (15).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Green-Acre

Eliot ME

[*August 1890*]*

My [beloved *?*] friend

I have just read over thy Sonnet* in the Atlantic, and must tell thee how strong and noble it seems. I read it to my cousins & some friends here and all were deeply impressed by it. It is an inspiration — a prophetic vision — a true poem. I am glad to be so near dear Sarah Jewett. She is confined just now by her sisters absence, to her house, and I have not felt able to go to see her there. How we all thank Dr Holmes*

[*Page 2*]

for relieving the hot dullness of dog-days with the fun and fancy of his Broomstick Train! — It is droller than his "One Horse Shay.{"}

We should probably leave here next week; and it is not certain whether we shall go back to Massachusetts or further up North. It will depend upon my health, of which I cannot say much. Our quarters here are very comfortable.

With love from Cousin Gertrude,* I am thankfully and affectionately thine

John G Whittier

Notes

August 1890: Whittier did not date this letter, but his reference to the dog-days places it in August, and his references to items in the August 1890 *Atlantic Monthly*, place it in 1890. His letter to Jewett of 8/11/1890 indicates that he had left Green Acre by that time.

Sonnet: Whittier refers to Fields's poem, "Flammantia Mœnia Mundi." The title comes from Lucretius, "Flaming Walls of the World." The sonnet appeared first in *Atlantic Monthly* in August 1890, p. 235 and was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). See Whittier to Fields, 3 June 1890.

Dr. Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents. His poem, "The Broomstick Train; Or, The Return of the Witches" appeared in the same August 1890 issue of *Atlantic Monthly* as Fields's sonnet, pp. 245-8.

Another popular humorous poem by Holmes is "The Deacon's Masterpiece," about the "wonderful one-hoss shay."

Cousin Gertrude: See Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4685.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick, Maine

8 August

[*1890*]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

Will you please send me the first sketch* which I sent you? I meant to have taken it the other day and so to have saved you this trouble. I was sorry not to find you, but I did not know what days you were in town, and

[*Page 2*]

I had not given time enough for an answer to my letter.

In making up the new book of stories (which I mean to call Strangers & Wayfarers) I meant to put in my new sketch, By the Morning Boat, for the last or next to the last, so, when the ^Atlantic^ proof is ready, will you be so kind

[*Page 3*]

as to ask the printers to send me duplicates in order that I may have one to keep?

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

I am sending this note to Little Boar's Head because I think it is possible that the sketch may be there.

Please give my very kindest remembrances to Mrs. Scudder.

Notes

sketch: Jewett's "By the Morning Boat" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in October 1890 and was collected in *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1890).

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll

Danvers*

8/11 1890

My dear Friend,

How sorry I am that I was not at Green Acre* to welcome thee & thy sister* when you called! I dont blame thee for not driving over to {the} lawn party that terribly hot day, but I looked anxiously for thee{.} It was ^a^ pleasant affair, but it lacked

[*Page 2*]

thee. Somehow I do not see so much of my adopted daughter as I could wish.

The Grand Army* 50 or 60 strong has just interrupted my letter, and my hand trembles from so much shaking. Boston has given [*corrected from* giving] the veterans a grand welcome, and they are loud in its praise.

I had a line from dear Annie Fields last night. She says she shall ride over to

[*Page 3*]

Oak Knoll soon. I hope thee will be with her.

I thank thee for thy care of the old broken-legged image. If thee have got him on his feet it must have been a rare piece of surgery{.}

Always thy affectionate friend

John G.Whittier

Notes

Danvers: Where Whittier writes from is somewhat confusing. Though the letter is dated from Danvers, the location of Oak Knoll, Whittier implies that he actually writes from Boston. Though Danvers is near Boston, presumably this village did not experience the crowds of veterans in the streets of Boston for the National Encampment (see notes below).

Green Acre: In *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (v. 2, p. 747) Samuel T. Pickard says, "A few weeks of the summer of 1890 were spent by Mr. Whittier at a quiet and pleasant place on the Piscataqua River, in Eliot, Maine, known as 'Green Acre'." Green Acre was a hotel/retreat operated by the Farmer family.

thy sister: Probably Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Grand Army: The 24th National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic took place in Boston during 11-16 August 1890. See *Unofficial Proceedings* (1891); the schedule of encampment events appears on pp. 52-3.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. Transcription by John Richardson.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

HOTEL DU LAC

ST. MORITZ-BAD

ENGADINE

_____

Gérant J. GIGER

_____-

[*End letterhead*]

[*Date added to the right of the letterhead*]

Aug 11 ' ' / 90.*

My dear Sadie:

I wish I could tell you in a few words how much pleasure your letter brought to me. But a few words will not express it, and I will have to wait until my good fortune brings me near to you. My pleasantest work in the Atlantic as to print your stories. No suggestion of mine could add anything to the liveliness of these little masterpieces, though you are generous* and modest enough to assume that I was of some help to you. I only saw how fine your touch was, and said so. When I return to Paris, I shall get you in your French [form *?*] which I know will be [becoming *?*], since Madam Blanc* is your couturiere. I have lost her address. If you will send it to me (to the Hotel Bristol, Paris) on receipt of this, perhaps it will reach me in time. ——

The day we said good-bye in the Atlantic office I was trying to tell you that I had turned my back on the shop; but I was pledged to keep the matter secret until H. M. & C. could announce it in their own way. If my lips had not been sealed with a promise, you and Annie Fields would have to know of my resignation. When we meet I will tell you a curious circumstance touching the affair. (In confidence* — I wasn't a bit sorry that you didn't have a story for the magazine! I was in the same situation with regard to a poem) —-

[*Page 2*]

We have been having an ideal journey. I wish that you and our dear friend could have been with us to see the grand Passion Play* at Ober Immergau and afterwards to spend a week at Constantinople. Both these things were like beautiful dreams. Mr Pierce* is still with us and will keep us company until our return. He and Lilian send their love to you and Mrs Fields. Please keep me in your memory as

Always affectionately yours,

T. B. Aldrich.

Notes

90: Aldrich's handwriting is somewhat confusing, and this date might be read to mean "1900," but because he refers to leaving his editorship at *Atlantic Monthly*, he must have intended "1890." See Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman and Thomas Bailey Aldrich of 23 July 1890.

generous: I should note that Aldrich's usually tiny hand-writing seems even more tiny in this ms. As a result, I have guessed more often than my brackets indicate. Readers wanting to be confident in referring to this letter should consult the manuscript.

Blanc's: Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc. Key to Correspondents.

confidence: Above "In confidence" appear 3 penciled "x's," possibly in another hand, probably to indicate that this parenthetical remark was to be withheld, perhaps should the letter be published.

Passion Play: A staging of the passion of Jesus in the village of Oberammergau, Germany, that has been presented once per decade since 1680. It was first performed there in 1634. Wikipedia.

Pierce: Henry Lille Pierce. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (4). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

South Berwick

12 August 1890

My dear Loulie

Just a word this windy morning to tell you how glad I was to get your letter, and how much I read between the lines that made me happy about you. I am so glad too that I have seen you. I hope that you are keeping out of doors a good deal — that's the very best thing — it is impossible

[*Page 2*]

not to be ones simple and natural self with nature and I sometimes think that the minute one goes into a house one is subject every way to some degree of artificial conditions! On the whole I approve of them but we mustn't forget that we are little beasts of the field too ! ! !

I was enchanted the other day with a letter in the beginning of Madame Sand's Correspondence (to her friend Madame d'Agoult)* where she describes

[*Page 3*]

one of her early morning rambles and ^says^ that at last she succumbed to the temptation to walk into the river! and then came out again and dried herself in the sun, and liked the effect so much that she repeated it.

I tell you about it very stupidly but you will wish to make for the next brook when you read it yourself — and one feels refreshed oneself as one sees how that great woman who was always burdened and excited by her great living and thinking found perfect joy in being

[*Page 4*]

a wild creature for a little while, and made herself next of kin to the bushes and the birds. I have been reading her letters and her life lately but it always vexes me to read French books that I care a great deal for because I cannot gallop along the pages as I do with English books.

I wish to have your Marianne* read another book of Rudyard Kipling's stories if only for the sake of one called With the Main Guard. It is in the volume called Soldiers Three.*

Goodbye dear Loulie

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

for I must get some other letters done in time for the mail. Give my love to your mother.

Yours lovingly

S. O. J.

Notes

d'Agoult: French author, Mantine Lucile Aurore Dupin de Francueil (18i04-1876), who published as George Sand.

Richard Cary provides a reference to the relevant quotation in *Correspondance 1812-1876* (Paris, 1882), 6 vols: "'L'autre jour, j'etais si accablée, que j'entrai dans la rivière tout habilée. Je n'avais pas prévu ce bain, de sorte que je n'avais pas de vétements *ad hoc*. J'en sortis mouillée de pied en cap' (II, 4-5). Countess Marie de Flavigny d'Agoult is remembered for eloping with Franz Liszt and bearing his child, and as the author of *History of the Revolution of 1848* under her pseudonym Daniel Stern."

The context of Sand's passage is that she sought relief on an excessively hot day. A Google translation of the full passage reads:

> The other day, I was so overwhelmed that I went into the river fully dressed. I hadn't planned this bath, so I didn't have the right clothes. I came out soaking wet from head to toe. A little further on, as my clothes were already dry and I was still bathed in sweat, I plunged back into the Indre. My only precaution was to hang my dress on a bush and bathe in my dressing gown. I put my dress back on, and the few passers-by didn't notice the unusualness of my "drapes."

Marianne: Marianne Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Soldiers Three: Rudyard Kipling. Key to Correspondents.

Wikipedia provides a confusing publication history for Kipling's story collection. It would appear the book first appeared under this title in the U.S. in 1899 and in India in 1888. Clearly, Jewett must have read it by 1890 and believed that Dresel could access it at will.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

12 August

[1890]*

My dear Friend

I was so sorry when I went to Eliot* to find that you and dear Mr. and Mrs. Cartland* had flown. I tried to get to the lawn party but although I came home from Manchester in good season to drive down it was so hot

[*Page 2*]

and so showery by turns here that I was forced to give it up. I thought that you were going to stay longer and I miss you very much, besides hoping that after Miss Kimball's* week was over you could come up here for a day or two. I wasn't going to tease! but I was going to appear

[*Page 3*]

with a very comfortable [carriage *corrected*] and sit before the door and indulge my hopes!! ——-

But you must find it delightful at Oak Knoll and when I get back to Manchester by and by I shall drive over. I dont like to trust your graven image to the express but I must pack him in soft cotton

[*Page 4*]

and send him soon. He went to Eliot yesterday ^and came home again^ in an envelope box. We had (Mary* & I) a very pleasant call on Miss Farmer* who seems to miss you all a good deal. Goodbye, dear friend and give my love to Phebe and the ladies and keep a good share that belongs to yourself.

Yrs Sarah —

Notes

1890: This letter responds to Whittier's of 8/11/1890.

Eliot: Richard Cary notes: Eliot, Maine, was a purely rural town on the Piscataqua River famed even "across the ocean" as a summer vacation spot. Whittier spent several weeks at a quiet hotel, "new, neat, and comfortable, and not near enough to a railroad to be crowded." (Pickard, *Life and Letters,* II, 747.) Eliot is a short drive from South Berwick.

For Cartland and Woodman, see Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

Kimball: Harriet McEwen Kimball (1834-1917). Cary characterized her as "author of numerous mediocre religious lyrics, ... a friend of Whittier's from the sixties." Whittier, however, thought highly of her poetry. See Pickard, *Life and Letters,* II, 486.

Farmer: Jewett refers to the Moses Farmer home in Eliot, ME, which in 1894 became a center for interfaith religious meetings and activity, under the leadership of Farmer and his daughter, Sarah Jane Farmer (b. 1847). Eventually the site became the Green Acre Bahá'í School.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Tuesday 12 Aug. 1890

Dear Fuff —

What a dark and still and (from this point of view) perfect night it must have been yesterday for the lighting up! I thought a good deal about it. You will be having a good still day today and will rest and read and take up a George Sand* book for a little while {.}

It is astonishing how the delight of that letter from ^G. Sand to^ Madame d'Agoult* stays with

[*Page 2*]

me. I think of it now and then with perfect delight. The first bit of time I find I mean to read Matthew Arnold's ~~letter~~ ^essay^* again or perhaps I will wait until we read it together{.}

(Carrie* & family put into port this morning from Mt [Desert *corrected, possibly from* desert] after a most glorious fortnight that ever was. They report such fun in seeing the people who came up on the boat from way down east bound for Boston. Such funny looking & amiable fellow

[*Page 3*]

country men! —) What a real pang it gave to hear of poor Boyle O'Reillys death!* I am so glad for all the friendliness that we could show him but I wish that it could have been more — My heart aches for his poor wife and the four little daughters. And besides this I think he is a great loss. We had wider and better sense than so many of his faith & nation and I think there was a true spark of genius in the

[*Page 4*]

man. I like to think of his pleasure about my Irish story,* dont you? ——-

((Yesterday afternoon Mary* and I went down to find thy friend* but he had flown — and instead of going on to Wakefield with the Cartlands he was naughty and ran home to Danvers! Miss Farmer* said that at first he was frightened because so many people came to Green Acre & wished to go away and then when he had given up his rooms he was sorry & didn't feel to go to the other place. He seems to [love *or* lose *?*]

[*Manuscript breaks off here. No signature*.]

Notes

George Sand: George Sand (Amandine-Aurore Lucille Dupin, Baronne Dudevant, 1804-1876) was a productive French novelist, remembered also for her love affairs with the painter Alfred de Musset and the pianist-composer, Frederic Chopin. Jewett probably has been reading *Story of My Life* (1854-55).

Madame d'Agoult: Marie Catherine Sophie, Comtesse d'Agoult (1805 - 1876), was a French author who published under the name, Daniel Stern. She is remembered for eloping with Franz Liszt and bearing their child. Her most famous book was *History of the Revolution of 1848*.

Jewett speaks of George Sand's first letter to Madame d'Agoult, which appears in *Letters of George Sand* volume 1 (1886), translated and edited by Raphaël Ledos de Beaufortl (pp. 202-4).

Jeannine Hammond, emeritus professor of French at Coe College, points out that a deep friendship between d'Agoult and George Sand came to an end in 1838; d'Agoult attempted to reestablish it by means of letters after 1839, but without success until their old age.

Aurelie Loiseleur, in *Romantisme* 132, pp. 149-150, summarizes d'Agoult's correspondence as collected in Charles F. Dupêchez, editor, *Marie d'Agoult, Correspondance Générale* (3 v., Paris, Honoré Champion, 2003). Loiseleur mentions letters to Sand of 20 August and 8 September

1839 in volume 2 as particularly moving in their attempts at reconciliation.

See also Lisztomania, "Marie D Agoult."

Matthew Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), published "George Sand" in *The Fortnightly Review* in June of 1877; it was reprinted in *Mixed Essays* in 1879.

(Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Except for those on page 1, all parenthesis marks in this letter are penciled by Fields.

Boyle O'Reillys death: John Boyle O'Reilly (1844 - 10 August 1890) was an Irish-American poet, journalist and activist for Irish nationalism. Transported to Australia for his political activities, he escaped to the United States, settling in Boston, where he became editor of the Boston *Pilot*.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

thy friend: John Greenleaf Whittier. For the Cartlands, see Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

Miss Farmer: Jewett refers to the Sarah Jane Farmer of Eliot, ME. See Whittier to Jewett of 11 August 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett
Fragment

August 14, 1890.

This Summer seems to give little room for what one needs most. By this I do not mean to blame fate: only to recognize some of the conditions which attend the ordinary life we live, and which at a time of special stress keep one's feet in the road, while one's heart is in the sea or the sky.

Perhaps those skyey windows will report themselves some day in renewed working impulses, though as yet I can't count them.

Notes

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick

19 August 1890

Dear Mr. Scudder

I notice that in the proof of my sketch the title is changed to By the Morning's Boat. Do you think best to let it stand so and was it your change? I liked the common phrase the Morning Boat as one

[*Page 2*]

hears it down the Coast — like 'morning sky' and 'shining morning face'! Unless you have a preference in the matter I should like to let the first reading stand. But I leave the final decision to you — being my editor!

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

[*Page 3*]

Do not give yourself the trouble to answer this note.

[*Page 4*]

25th August

Dear Mr. Scudder, this note turns up among the papers on my ^(disorderly!)^ desk. Is it too late? I am *very* sorry that I forgot to post it.

Notes

Morning's: Richard Cary notes: "Scudder acceded to Miss Jewett's preference. The title was rendered without the offending apostrophe *s* in the October issue of the *Atlantic Monthly* and was so reproduced in *Strangers and Wayfarers*."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Hayes Ward

South Berwick Maine

21 August 1890

My dear Mr. Ward

I am tempted to make a suggestion through you to The Herald* in regard to the late accident at Quincy.* It seems to me that such an accident is inevitably made worse by the use of such heavy iron car seats, which

[*Page 2*]

shut together in a horrible way and then are impossible by their own weight and interlocking to pry apart. Cannot The Herald suggest something lighter; in a sense more destructible? for although the bruises and injuries of every sort would be innumerable in a suddenly stopped car the poor victims would not all be held in vices as it were and exposed to steam and fire — [*deleted word*] Do not take time to send any reply to this note, but take the idea — if it is worth anything!

And pray believe me

with high regard

yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

The Herald: Jewett is known to have read several *Herald* newspapers, including from Portsmouth, NH, Boston and New York. Mr. Ward seems more likely to have had connections in Boston and New York. Given that the train wreck occurred near Boston, perhaps the Boston *Herald* is the more likely choice.

accident at Quincy: Jewett refers to the Quincy, MA train wreck of the Cape Cod and Woods' Hole train on 19 August 1890, in which at least 16 people died and many others were injured.

For a discussion of passenger car seating, see *The American Railroad Passenger Car, Part 2* (1985) by John H. White, pp. 373-80.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Abernethy Collection; Special Collections and Archives, Middlebury College Library, Middlebury, VT, aberms.jewettso.1890.08.21.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick

[23 *corrected from 22?*] August 1890

My dear Friend

I thank you with all my heart for your dear and delightful letter!

I hasten to answer your question about Madame Blanc:* She wrote me last from the South of France where she was spending a few weeks, and I cant put my disorderly hand on the earlier letter. I

[*Page 2*]

think that her address is 52 Rue de Bourgogne however,* J. Hetzel et Cie 18 Rue Jacob published the little book and they would be sure to know .

I am particularly pleased because Lady Ferry* was one of the translations. I always have believed that it was one of the best things I could do, but Mr. Howells

[*Page 3*]

wouldn't print it for all that. I should lop its beginning now, but I do like it!

I have been at home almost all the time since I wrote you. We are still very anxious about my dear mother, though she has some pretty comfortable days and can drive out in the best of weather. I saw our dear A.F.* two

[*Page 4*]

or three weeks ago and she seemed very well and less lonely than she was earlier in the summer. The Roger Wolcotts and their dear little girl* were staying with her then — and she has had Miss von Blomberg* for some weeks which has been very pleasant, and other friends beside.

With love to you and Lilian and Mr. Pierce*

Yours ever affectionately

"Sadie"

Think of your having been in Constantinople!!!*

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Do you know that Mr. Dresel* died very suddenly, a few weeks ago at Beverly?

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

I wish that I could really tell you how much I thank you for your letter, my dear and kind friend!

Notes

Madame Blanc: Marie Thérèse de Solms Blanc. Key to Correspondents.

however: Jewett's punctuation at this point is difficult to understand. She appears to have placed a period or a comma after "however" but the sense of her sentence suggests that "however" introduces the Hetzel address.

Hetzel was the publisher of Mme. Blanc's translation of Jewett's *A Country Doctor* (1884), which appeared in 1890.

Lady Ferry: Jewett submitted "Lady Ferry" to *Atlantic*, when William Dean Howells (Key to Correspondents) was editor, and then printed it first in her 1879 collection, *Old Friends and New*.

A. F.: Annie Fields (1834-1915).

The Roger Wolcotts and their dear little girl: See Edith Prescott Wolcott in Key to Correspondents. Among the six children listed at her "Find a Grave" site, there is only one daughter, Cornelia Frothingham Wolcott Drury (1885-1956).

Miss von Blomberg: Baroness Eva von Blomberg. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Pierce: Henry Lille Pierce. Key to Correspondents.

Constantinople: According to Greenslet's *The Life of Thomas Bailey Aldrich*, the Aldriches visited Constantinople, Turkey in July of 1890 (pp. 162-3).

Mr. Dresel: See Louisa Loring Dresel in Key to Correspondents. Her father, Otto, died 25 July 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117). At the bottom left of page one, in another hand, is a circled number: 2737.

William James to Sarah Orne Jewett

Tamworth Iron Works, N.H.

Aug 27. 90

My dear Miss Jewett,

Many thanks for your kind letter. Rest assured that if ever a need of cash comes, so great that all the reserves have to be called

[*Page 2*]

out, your hard-earned savings also shall be put under contribution! I have just sent back this morning another contribution, from no less a person that Loisette,* the memory doctor, so you see that I'm impartial in my disinterestedness, as

[*Page 3*]

he is a millionaire. I wish you could have stayed over Sunday. We had a most charming time, and Mrs. Merriman* is assuredly one of the finest women living. I am so glad to have seen her more intimately at last.

With warm regards

[*Page 4*]

from my wife, believe me always, your friend

Wm. James

Notes

contribution: The issue under discussion here has not yet been explained.

Loisette: Wikipedia in "Mnemonic major system" says:

> In the 1880s Marcus Dwight Larrowe, alias Silas Holmes, was teaching memory courses in the United States based on the Major System using a third alias Dr. Antoine Loisette. Because he was charging inordinate sums of money for a system which had obviously existed before, George S. Fellows published *"Loisette" Exposed* (1888) and included all the material of Larrowe's course which he determined not to be under copyright. The incident was notable enough to gain coverage by way of a book review in the journal *Science*. A well-known student of Loisette's included Mark Twain whose endorsement Loisette used regularly to sell his course. Following the revelation that he had not originated the system, Larrowe self-published his material under the pseudonym Dr. Antoine Loisette in 1895 and 1896 and it was later re-published by Funk & Wagnalls in 1899.

Merriman: Helen Bigelow Merriman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. James, William, 1842-1910. 3 letters; 1890-1902. (112). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters

from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Frances Smith*

South Berwick, Maine

28 August 1890

Dear Miss Smith

I think that it must be getting near low-tide in Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald's* pocket-book, so please put this to her account.

I hope that you are having a good summer, indoors and out. —

Yours most truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Smith: Frances Smith has not yet been identified.

Fitzgerald's: Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald has not yet been identified. There is some possibility that she was Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald (1820-1895) of South Boston. According to her obituary in the Boston *Daily Globe* (5 March 1895, p. 9), she was born in Kerry, Ireland, the daughter of John Hoar. She immigrated to South Boston in 1879, where her previously arrived son, John E. Fitzgerald, was involved in local politics. She became active in her parish church, Gate of Heaven, and there is evidence of her support for Catholic charities benefiting children and working women.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Milne Special Collections and Archives, University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, NH, USA: Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, 1849-1909 Series 1: Correspondence, MC 128 b1f3.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Sunday morning

[*September 1890*]

Dear Loulie

I now make you a present, (as kindly requested) of Tuesday afternoon, leaving here by the 1.40 train! I hope that you will see your way toward accepting so slight a boon! Please do not take the trouble to write _____ yes, on the whole I should like a post card.

[*Page 2*]

My roses have, every one of them, come to full bloom, and I cant tell you how we have enjoyed them, but perhaps of all the flowers I liked my white gillyflowers best.

Yours affectionately

S.O.J.

Notes

September 1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, in another hand appears: Sept. 1890. Without a rationale for this choice and with no telling internal evidence, I have accepted this date.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Loring Dresel

Thursday

Manchester

[*September 1890*]

Dear Loulie

Thank you and Mrs. Dresel so many times for these lovely flowers which blessed all the house yesterday when I came. It was very dear of you both.

I hope to see you soon, and indeed

[*Page 2*]

I should like to come up to dinner. Shall I not see you first? Do drive down very soon.

Sarah.

It was a dear birthday.

Notes

September 1890: In the upper left corner of page 1, in another hand appears: Sept. (?) 1890. As Jewett's birthday falls in September, which may have been the occasion for the mentioned gift of flowers, there is some rationale for the guess of the month. Recognizing the lack of further evidence, I have accepted the speculative date.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

Sunday.

[8 Sep 1890]*

To say that I thanked S.W. for so dear a flask with silver flowers all for a birthday whereby came into this world to be very fond of her & also of good things to keep in little flasks that go a journeying: And so to thank her again and again and

[*2*]

to say that it is the charmingest of little flasks and a most welcomed kind of a birthday present that belongs to a Wandering Jew-ett's* kit and can always be looked at with joy because of the giver.

The taker thought all this and more and yet [never *corrected*] said it on a pleasant yesterday. What a

[*3*]

dear yesterday with the summer rain, and a pink frock and brown head on the wide window sill against the wet green leaves outside — and silver and gold things to eat, and a white cat, and — and all the pictures, with the sight of Italy in her white [*deletion*] dress!

With a dear baby* moreover

[*4*]

who grew while you looked at him and went upstairs [rosier *?*] and larger than he came down! I say

Thank you!*

As nearly as [possible *or* possibly *?*] as one little Helen* says it. And comes a note from A.F.* dropping over the hall railing to go to you in my envelope —

S.O.J.

Notes

1890: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Mrs. Whitman at Beverly Farms, MA, cancelled in Manchester, MA, on 8 September 1890. This creates a dating problem, because in 1890, 8 September fell on Saturday. In 1889, 8 September fell on Sunday.

Though it is rare for Jewett to write the wrong day, it has happened. In 1889, Jewett probably was in South Berwick on these dates, whereas in 1890, she probably was at Manchester. Therefore, I have tentatively placed this letter in 1890.

Jewett's birthday was 3 September.

Wandering Jew: Jewett has playfully associated herself with the legendary figure of the Wandering Jew. A Jew who taunted Jesus as he proceeded to his crucifixion was cursed to wander the earth until Christ's second coming..

baby: Whitman had no children and is not known to have had nephews. One may speculate that one of her close friends was a guest for a birthday celebration at Whitman's home, perhaps Minna Timmins Chapman (1861-1897) whose first son, Victor Emmanuel Chapman (1890-1916), was born on 17 April. Presumably, Jewett refers here to seeing the child fed. Find a Grave.

you!: Jewett has written this "Thank you!" in double-sized script.

Helen: The mutual friends of Jewett and Whitman named Helen were many. It is not yet known which of them this was.

A.F. Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. MS Am 1854, Box 40, 6245a. John Jay Chapman papers III. Other letters

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Sarah Orne Jewett to Silas Weir Mitchell

Manchester by the Sea

15 September 1890

Dear Doctor Mitchell

I wish that I could have thanked you before I came away from Newport for the words that are written in the book you gave me. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it was to see you – as if I were seeing an old friend for the first time! A great doctor is always a great hero to me,

[*Page 2*]

and [believe *corrected*] that I am always your delighted reader and look for your lead in my own line of march. ——- I cannot tell you how much I have thought of the new poem;* it seems to me in many ways the strongest and most beautiful of your shorter poems and full of touches — as if that prison wall held field flowers in its crannies and even the iron bars were grown with vines. It is as

[*Page 3*]

beautiful as it is awful.

I am sorry that I could not see Mrs. Mitchell* again. I should like to tell her what a good time I had at the dancing-party. I saw your daughter, and

wished that I might know her some day — I am going to send her my Betty Leicester* when I go to town again because I find myself wishing to!

[*Page 4*]

and you must make some kind excuse for me if she wonders why the story-book should come!

Pray believe me ever with best thanks to you for many things

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Mrs Fields wishes me to add her best regards and hope of seeing you if you should come to Boston.

[Added diagonally at bottom right of page 4]

I read to Mrs [Mrs *repeated*] Marsh and Miss Ticknor* for the first time The Centurion

Notes

new poem: Mitchell's narrative poem about Christian martyrdom in the Roman Circus Maximus, "In the Valley of the Shadow: The Centurion," was collected in his volume of poems, *In War-Time* (1895). There it is dated 1890. Jewett apparently did not see it in a magazine, for no such publication has yet been documented. Perhaps Mitchell gave Jewett a handmade copy of the poem.

Mrs. Mitchell: For Mitchell's second wife, Mary, and their daughter, Marie, see Mitchell in Key to Correspondents.

Betty Leicester: Jewett's "story for girls" was published in 1890.

Mrs Marsh... Miss Ticknor: Anna Eliot Ticknor. Key to Correspondents.

While this is speculative, a likely candidate for "Mrs. Marsh" is Caroline Crane (Mrs. George P.) Marsh (1816-1901). Her husband, George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) was an American diplomat, philologist, and conservationist. She was a translator and poet, the author of *Wolfe of the Knoll and other Poems* (1860).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. AS Autograph file J, Box 101.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick, Maine

1 October

[*1890*]*

Dear Loulie

I was glad to get your two nice letters, the first was full of delightful things to a person in my business! I am so glad that you are having such a delightful time — I thought you would! and the second letter quite proves it. I [envy *corrected*] your playing so much with dear Nelly Hale.* It seems a great while since I saw

[*Page 2*]

her. I am indeed glad that you feel so much better. I was sure of that too, and dear Loulie, how the truth comes to us as we grow older that one gets something out of simple country life in the green fields that one never does anywhere else! It is very natural that I should have a prejudice in that direction!

[*Page 3*]

You see that I have left Manchester, but I hope to go back again for the last few days of Mrs. Fields's* stay and be moved to town as I was moved down!

Mr. Sargent* is still there and we have enjoyed him very much. It is always such an interesting world to me, the picture world — and he is such a <u>serious</u>

[*Page 4*]

<u>man</u> as my dear old grandfather* used to say, and so intent and wholehearted about his work — I am sure that you would find great pleasure in what he says and <u>is</u>. I wonder if Nelly has not known him —

I must say good morning with much love to you and Nelly and "Mamma", and here are best thanks for your letters.

Yours always affectionately

S. O. J.

Notes

1890: This date was assigned by Richard Cary. The main visible supporting evidence is Jewett's noting that Dresel is "feeling better" apparently as a result of spending time in a rural setting. See Jewett to Dresel of 12 August 1890.

Hale: Ellen Day Hale. Key to Correspondents.

Fields's: Annie Adams Fields.

Sargent: American painter, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). At this time, he was painting a portrait of Fields.

grandfather: Cary believes this was Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*1 Oct 1890*]*

I loved to see you again, dear friend: but I could not tell you that morning in the [*unrecognized word* station *?*] — Mostly because you were so very dear. [It *?*] had made me

[*Page 2*]

feel such a deep rich sense of sympathy and love. Remember sometimes that you say words which hearten me for great stretches of time: even while I have the tender pain of knowing they are beyond — far far — my

[*Page 3*]

deservings. ——

A blessing on you that shall be, like His Grace,* new every morning.

Your

SW

Notes

1 Oct 1890: This date is noted in another hand in the upper right of the first page. It is supported by the envelope that accompanies this letter, addressed to Jewett in South Berwick.

His Grace: Presumably, Whitman refers to the Christian God.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 -107.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Unknown Recipient
Fragment

South Berwick Maine

12 October 1890

My dear Sir

I thank you sincerely for the kindness of your note and the very great pleasure it has given me. It is a great delight to have my work praised by you — and to have had your note come just when I happened to be in a state of [unsatisfied *?*]

[*Unfinished; no signature*]

Note

The manuscript of this fragment is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 279.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Saturday morning

12 October 1890

Oh dearest Fuff (I* am so glad about the road! I think it is really a great blessing and delight to be sure that you need not worry about <u>that</u> any more — You ought to go down and tell the old apple trees for the poor things must have been curling up their toes to go, all summer!

What a nice budget of letters — thank you so much

[*Page 2*]

and I am sorry you had to miss S.W.* but I take it in that there was a Board Meeting! probably — Tell me if little Smithy* had come home — and did anything farther ensue about the Twins* up the lane? Did they speak after they returned to town?) X* I was busy writing most of the day yesterday, [but *changed from* and] went up the street for an hour to the funeral of a little ^grand^ child of one of our

[*Page 3*]

neighbours — The mother had died of consumption not long ago and this [delicate *corrected, possibly from* deligate] little thing was brought to the old grandmother to take care of. So it was a blessed flitting — and a solemn little pageant of all the middle aged and elderly neighbours going to the funeral and sitting in the

room where the small coffin was and that old wise little dead face, which made one feel oneself the ignorant child and that

[*Page 4*]

poor baby an ancient wise creature that knew all that there was for a baby to know, of this world and the next.

(Then I came back and did some more writing and then in the dusk I went to see [an *corrected*] old and very much alive neighbour, and then I came home and ate my supper and read all the evening. It was so good to have your dear letter. — I send you that charming letter which I should like to have back again. It

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

is a very pleasant thing to have such a letter as that! I hope you will have a good day tomorrow{.} Perhaps you can stop at S.W's going or coming. Tell Mr. Sargent* that

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

there is honey going here but nothing like our

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 3*]

piece. I have sent to Mrs. Kelhaus* to see if she can send some over. I hope she wont put it into a grape basket! —-

Goodby my darling

from your Pinny

Notes

Fuff (I:The parenthesis mark here — along with all of the others in this manuscript — was penciled in by Annie Fields.

S.W.: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Smithy: This person is mentioned in several letters between Jewett and Fields, and so far there are few clues to her identity. One wonders whether she might be American classical scholar, Emily James Smith Putnam (1865-1944). Though there is no evidence that she and Annie Fields were acquainted, they shared interest in classical Greek studies. In 1891, Smith was not yet married, and she was teaching Greek in Brooklyn. In 1899, she married a Jewett correspondent, the publisher George Haven Putnam. Key to Correspondents.

the Twins: Jewett often refers to the sisters, Helen Olcott Choate Bell and Miriam Foster Choate Pratt as the Twins. Key to Correspondents. Though they were sisters, they were not twins.

X: Fields penciled in this X, presumably to mark the point at which she began her transcription.

Mr. Sargent: If this passage is from the 1890s, then this could be the painter, John Singer Sargent, who was at this time painting a portrait of Fields. See Thaxter to Fields of October 1890. However, this could be a Boston neighbor, John Turner Sargent (1807-1877), a prominent Unitarian minister, remembered for his support of abolition and woman suffrage.

Mrs. Kelhaus: This person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

Annie Fields includes a passage from this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 80.

Saturday morning, 12 *October*, 1890

I was busy writing most of the day yesterday, but went up the street for an hour to the funeral of a little grand-child of one of our neighbours. The mother had died of consumption not long ago, and this delicate little thing was brought to the old grandmother to take care of. So it was a blessed flitting, and a solemn little pageant of all the middle-aged and elderly neighbours going to the funeral and sitting in the room where the small coffin was, and that old, wise, little dead face, which made one feel one's self the ignorant child, and that poor baby an ancient wise creature that knew all that there was for a baby to know, of this world and the next.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Miss Robinson

South Berwick Maine

13 October 1890

My dear Miss Robinson*

I made my "last appearance upon in stage" in that same week when you were such a kind listener at the Saturday Morning Club, so that I must decline your pleasant invitation.

[*Page 2*]

I really make it a rule never to read in public, but I beg you to accept my best thanks for your kind note and to believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Robinson: This person has not yet been identified.

Saturday Morning Club: The catalog of the records of the Saturday Morning Club, held by the Schlesinger Library at Harvard, lists a number of Jewett friends associated with the Saturday Morning Club, including its 1871 founder, Julia Ward Howe, as well as Phillips Brooks, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alice Longfellow, Louise Moulton, Sarah Wyman Whitman, and Annie Fields.

A photocopy of the manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. The original is in the Annie Lawrence Edmands autograph book (M54).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

[*October 1890*]*

Dearest Flower:

Thank you so much for your dear note & I will forward those photos the minute they are ready, & thank you [for *blotted ?*] the proffer of the shelter of your beautiful roof. How I wish I could be there even for a day! But I dont see how I can go away from my moorings & I am too "poor" to afford even so small a journey just now, unless it were some dire necessity. Every summer before these two last I have been able to do some thing to help my winter expenses, making a hundred dollars or so by reading at the Shoals, or with my painting or something — but I couldn't do it this year & so I must print this article I have been

[*Page 2*]

saving long for a rainy day. You know, Flower dear, J. T.* was so anxious I should print it. — he said, "you must do it, bye & bye, of course with some things left out, but you must do it." The "bye & bye" was because Mr F objected to anybody's printing any thing, you know, about anybody, especially W^{m} Hunt.* But now nearly twelve years are gone since Hunt died & I think it is far enough away — Ask Pinny what she thinks — Of course I am dissatisfied with it — so I am with every thing that I do, & I never would do any thing if I did not have to earn my salt, — I mean of this kind. Last winter I painted a water color for Mrs Hemenway* & that tided me over till spring & bought my gray gown you liked, you dear Flower.

[*Page 3*]

As soon as I have the MS. in shape again I shall send it for you to read, if you will be so kind, & if you & Pin dont think its advisable ^to print it^ why I wont do it, that's all.

Karl did not go up to the Fair* last week, the weather was so bad. As it will go on for sometime longer, this week will do as well.

How I should like to see Sargent's portrait of you!* O Can't you keep it? didn't he leave it with you? I'm dying to see it!

Both my brothers are at the Shoals through this terrible storm — I expect them the moment the weather lulls. We are all waiting anxiously the last news from the syndicate,* which must come before the end of this month. You know this change doesn't affect me pecuniarily, for I do not own a pebble on the Shoals. And I shrink from losing the independence of my own little household here, for there is the terrible problem of poor Karl. If the syndicate prevails, Cedric & Julia will have a home in Boston & I shd have to go & live in Oscar's De Normandie

[*Page 4*]

house* ^with him^ & there looms the problem of Karl — Also the [new *corrected*] [house *or* home *?*] to be built at the Shoals — what place is there for him & his portentous traps which moor him & keep him content & happy & out of mischief — And as I live only for him, it is a grave matter — But I don't cross any of these bridges till I get to them, or worry myself about anything, for that wd. be wicked & foolish — still it {is} always best to recognize that the facts exist. Of course nobody wants Karl.

Dear Flower, when you are settled in town couldn't you run down for a day & night before the weather gets cold? There are so many things I want to talk to you about. There are some experiences at the Shoals last summer, of the most unprecedented nature & of which I am dying to tell you & Pin too — When she was here the other day we had only time to scratch through the MS & nothing else — — I had a dear letter from Rose Lamb* Sat night, think

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

I'll enclose it to you. Please let me have it again when you've read it. Think of the happiness of Horace & his wife!* Dear me — it is something beautiful & sends a ray of warmth & brightness all the way from Egypt or Greece or wherever they are, to the door beside the baker shop at 47 State St Ports, N.H. U.S.A.!

Ever dearest Annie

Your C

Notes

October 1890: This is the date assigned by the Boston Public Library, and it is supported by information in the letter. See notes below.

This manuscript begins in black ink, but after the first four lines of the body, shifts to pencil.

J.T.: James T. Fields. See Annie Fields in Key to Correspondents.

Hunt: American painter, William Morris Hunt (1824- 8 September 1879). Wikipedia says: "Hunt died at the Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, in 1879, apparently a suicide. Hunt had gone to the New Hampshire shore to recover from a crippling depression.... His body was discovered by his friend, New Hampshire poet Celia Thaxter." See Thaxter to Fields of 25 December 1890.

Mrs Hemenway: Mary Porter Tileston Hemenway (1820 - March 6, 1894), who, according to Wikipedia, "was an American philanthropist. She sponsored the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition to the American southwest, and opened the first kitchen in a public school in the US. ... [S]he married Edward Augustus Holyoke Hemenway (1803-1876) in 1840."

Sargent's portrait of you: American artist John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). His portrait of Fields at the Boston Athenaeum is dated in 1890.

syndicate: In *Sandpiper* (Randall 1963, 1999 pp. 233-4), Rosamond Thaxter says that an English syndicate showed interest in purchasing the Thaxter brothers' hotel property on the Isles of the Shoals. Negotiations continued through the fall of 1890 and spring of 1891, finally without success.

Rosamond Thaxter further notes that at this time, there was a plan to build summer cottages at Shoals, including one for Celia and Karl.

Oscar's De Normandie house: For many years, this was the 47 State Street Portsmouth, NH winter residence of Oscar Laighton, his sister Celia and her son Karl Thaxter. Laighton purchased the house from Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1916) in April 1887. Her husband was a Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Rose Lamb: Key to Correspondents.

Horace & his wife: Horatio Appleton Lamb (1850-1926), son of a prominent Boston merchant, Thomas Lamb (1796-1887), and brother of painter and Jewett correspondent, Rose Lamb. Key to Correspondents. Horatio Lamb was a wholesale merchant and then treasurer of Simmons College. He married Annie Lawrence Rotch (1857-1950) on 14 April 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-69).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

[*Address side of a postcard cancelled 20 October 1890*]

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Riverside Press

Cambridge Mass

[*Message side of postcard*]

Please send proofs* to 148 Charles St. Boston after Monday.

———————————

[*Probably in another hand, with equal in hyphen's place.*]

After to=day (Oct 14) send to South Berwick Maine

cw

Notes

proofs: It seems likely that Jewett was working on *Betty Leicester. A Story for Girls*, published by Houghton Mifflin late in 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William H. Rideing

148 Charles Street

Boston 24 October

[*1890*]*

Dear Mr. Rideing

I thank you for your very kind note and I must say that your plan for a series of autobiographical sketches interests me very much. I should like to make certain points in mine about the value that simple country surroundings

[*Page 2*]

have had in my life simply because I was taught to be interested in things close at hand. So many young people imagine that it is their surroundings that help or hinder them.

I make it a rule not to do work of this sort for less than a hundred dollars unless in exceptional

[*Page 3*]

cases. I do not mean work of this character — but ^[*deletion*]^ when I am asked by a magazine to do a special thing. I know very well that a magazine must have some regard to the length of a paper!, but I find, on the author's part, that fifteen hundred words usually give me more work than four thousand — and

[*Page 4*]

when I break into other work I must consider that. But it is foreign to my wish to drive a hard bargain, and I promise to send you the sketch —

Believe me with best regards

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Please to address me at South Berwick, Maine.

Notes

1890: Jewett refers to "Looking Back on Girlhood," *Youth's Companion*, 65 (7 January 1892), 5-6. Richard Cary notes that this was "the first in a series of six reminiscent essays by prominent authors of the day."

Cary assigned the date of 1890, which seems reasonably likely. 1891 would seem equally likely, except that in October of that year, Jewett was kept in South Berwick by the final illness of her mother, who died on 21 October.

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine: JEWE.1. It was originally transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St.

Oct 27th

[*1890*]*

Beloved friend;

It seems a long long time since that beautiful afternoon when we left you at Oak Knoll{,} Sarah and I, and drove back to Manchester in the sunset carrying your noble poem in [my *correcte*d] pocket!

[*2*]

I have been reading the Life of Mifs Dix which will give you pleasure I think to look over. Her work reminds one of that of [Saint *corrected*] Theresa.* It seems to me they had strong points in common{.}

[*3*]

We almost flew off our hilltop one week ago Sunday so I took the hint and moved two days later! The green library at home here looks very cozy and as if it were waiting for you and the other dear friends, but

[*4*]

I think the walls are listening still to the echoes of the past good cheer.

Sarah has gone again to Berwick where she is busy writing. I have had a long visit from an artist of great gifts by the name of Sargent* who has interested me as one of the growing men of our time. This was at Manchester. Now the usual winter

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

work has begun. I saw Mr. Lowell yesterday{.} He is still weak physically but he is doing a little writing{.}

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

He was rejoicing in Dr. Holmes's

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

excellent "Teacups"* I forgot to tell

[*5*]

|5

him what I think I must have told you, of the fun which took possession of him one afternoon lately at Beverly Farms when he said "Have you seen a poem of Whittier's lately in the papers? Well, it is very good, so good that it wont let me take my nap in [peace *corrected*] — the truth is I want to kill off a few of my co=temporaries Gladstone* first [*unrecognized punctuation*] They are simply wonderful{.} I want to kill 'em to get a little comfort myself!{"}

[*6*]

[6

Forgive my sending you such a long scrawl!

Ever most

lovingly yours

Annie Fields

Notes

1890: This year would seem to be confirmed by Fields mentioning a new biography of Dorothea Dix and a new book by James Russell Lowell. See notes below.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Dix: Dorothea Lynde Dix (1802-1887) was an American educator and activist, who lobbied successfully on behalf of the indigent mentally ill. In the Civil War, she was Superintendent of Army Nurses for the Union Army. *Life of Dorothea Lynde Dix* by Francis Tiffany appeared in 1890.

Theresa: Probably, Fields means Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582), a Spanish mystic.

Sargent: American expatriate artist, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), who painted Fields's portrait in 1890.

Lowell ... Holmes ... "Teacups": James Russell Lowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents. Holmes published a series of "table-talk" books, the most famous being his first, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table* (1858). The last was *Over the Teacups* (1891), which was published first serially in *Atlantic Monthly* in 1890.

Gladstone: Liberal British statesman, William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898) served as Prime Minister 1892-1894.

It is not yet known to which poem Holmes refers or exactly what caused the insomnia he claims to suffer from. Was this the "noble poem" Fields mentions on page 1?

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Robert Collyer to Annie Adams Fields

New York Oct 27th 1890

Dear Friend

Your letter brings help to me and healing and to the children also who have all read it with tears. I wanted to hear from you and knew I should hear very soon. Mother was very sick for six days before the holy Angel folded her away from us and very patient. She said early in the sickness she thought she should not recover and was quite content to go now. Indeed she had longed to ever since our darling* left us and only held on to life as I would think sometimes because it was still a sacred trust. She longed to be with Annie not for heavens sake or Christ [His *?*] sake but for Annies for she would often say as we sat alone I cannot free myself from the haunting that Annie wants her Mamma and can not quite rest until I go to her but it will not be long.

We love to think now how well she was until the end drew near. Two weeks ago yesterday she was able to go to Church and stay to the communion and as she sat there in her

[*Page 2*]

place I noticed a very sweet light on her face. She brought home with her the light which is not of the sun. She has found Annie and all her treasures the dear Mamma. I am very lonesome but you know all about that dear friend and how this must have its time. And I cannot help listening for her poor lame feet on the floor and for some sound in the night when I awake and there is so much I want to tell her and have her tell me. I cannot readjust my life yet awhile to the new and strange conditions and especially to the silence in which there is no reverberation of her human presence for the first time in 41 years.

I will write again before long but must stop now

Gratefully and lovingly

Robert Collyer

You would hear that our dear daughter Mrs Hosmer* lost her husband in August { — } she is

with us now but will return to Chicago and her three boys this week. Frank was a dear good son to us and his death was a great sorrow all round.

Notes

patient: Collyer omits many periods in this letter. I have supplied them wherever they seem necessary.

darling: The context of this letter is the recent death of Collyer's second wife, Anne Armitage. Her "darling" was their daughter, Annie, who died in 1886. His newly widowed daughter was Emma Collyer Hosmer. See Collyer in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda Box 10: mss Fl 1-5637.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*November 1890*]*

Dr. Holmes (1

Dearest. I had a long twilight hour with Dr. Holmes* tonight. He had taken a nap and his senses were as clear as ever they were. His talk was delightful. He spoke of Dr. Henry J. Bigelow* who has just died —— "a wonderful surgeon, great man in his own direction — nobody like him — only one or two men in the world who could be compared to him{.} I have just written an article about him for the Medical Society — a long paper — long for me now — all in one day

[*Page 2*]

He was a daring man in his work — just like a burglar (of course I dont say that in my paper but it is an excellent comparison) if he could not get at what he wanted in any other way he would blow up the whole machine. He wasn't a reader — never read anything — but he knew of course how to go after anything he wanted in books and he had wonderful persistence in getting to the root of any matter which excited his interest. For instance he spared neither time nor money in hunting up the portrait which was given me and supposed to be of a famous French surgeon, he did not rest until he had settled the matter definitely and the picture was found to be the portrait of another man — I have been reading the history of the town of Woodstock* — 400 great pages of typewriting { — } thought it would be a great bore but there is a great deal that is very interesting in such details — from the time my ancestor John Holmes went there with

[*Page 3*]

[his *corrected from* hes] axe (probably) over his shoulder and founded a saw mill down through the minute~~s~~ details of life in a remote township{.} I ^[too *?*]^ have had a very long literary life {—} 60 years I found today as [I *written over* a] wrote my autograph and put the two dates in opposite corners of the sheet — Few men can show such a record as that. I began to write first in 1830 but after that I went to Europe to study medicine and for nearly nineteen years I hardly wrote a line

[*Page 4*]

Dr. Holmes (2

In 1857 Lowell* wrote me that a magazine was to be started in Boston and if I would write for it he would edit it — I thought that a great compliment of course but it seemed to me he was out of his head — but as it proved he [showed *corrected*] great discernment because without vanity I may say I helped to make the magazine a success and to sustain it — I needed money, my wife had a little fortune of her own, but I like to do my share towards

[*Page 5*]

the support of my family ^(with great dignity)^ and before I began to write I went about lecturing ten dollars fifteen dollars, very rarely 50 dollars in those days — I remember once going to Concord ([Emerson's* *corrected*] Concord) to lecture. I got through my lecture at the Medical school about two — had my [dinner *corrected*] and started off for Concord — It was snowing and it snowed much when I reached Concord{.}

[*Page 6*]

As I got out of the train I asked if the Sec^{y} of the lecture [Course *corrected*] was there — no he was sick — so I took my bag and footed it to the hall — there I found an audience and a man talking to them but I said he's only saying a few words to keep them busy till I get there. I sent for the Sec^{y} and asked if I was not expected to lecture there — "No, he said, what's your name" "Holmes" no there's nobody by that name in our course and we've got a lecture for tonight so I went to the Inn

[*Page 7*]

damp and hungry and went to bed. Next morning [I paid *? corrected*] my bills{,} went home ^with a cold^, hunted up the letter and found by some

accident of re=posting from Cambridge that I had mistaken the [mark *?*] and it was Concord N.H. where I was expected!

Another time I went to a little town Wrentham — It was a stormy night and they said they didnt think anybody would come and perhaps they had better give it up — I said why not take a [loose sleigh *?*] and go round and gather up the audience (I had no idea of losing my ten dollars if I could help it){.} They

[*Page 8*]

Dr. Holmes (3

took up with my suggestion{.} I went round with 'em and we got in quite a little company!

We talked of [Shakspeare *so spelled*] and the new "Brief" — "but there's no accounting for genius — genius I take it means a certain large way of looking at things and in our experience the man of genius is not, [I believe *?*], Carlyle, nor Thackeray nor any of the [fellow's *so spelled*]

[*Page 9*]

we hear so greatly [talked *corrected*] about, but Dickens.* There was always enough of Dickens{.} It was a great wondrous fountain pouring itself freely out for us and a wonderful personality — such force and as the woman said of the sea "Enough of it — she was glad there was enough of something —"

But I must end — there was more — but I hope you will like this

from your

AF

Notes

November 1890: This date is based upon Fields reporting the recent death of Henry J. Bigelow. See notes below.

The "Dr. Holmes" before each of Fields's page numbers appears to have been added after the first composition.

Dr. Holmes: Oliver Wendel Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

Bigelow: American surgeon and Harvard medical school professor, Henry Jacob Bigelow (1818- 30 October 1890). Holmes's *A Memoir of Henry Jacob Bigelow* appeared in 1894.

Woodstock: This transcription is uncertain; Fields may have written "Woodstoke." In any case, Holmes meant Woodstock, CT, where his great-great grandfather, John Holmes (1661-1713) settled.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents. Lowell along with Holmes and others founded *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1857.

Shakspeare ...the new "Brief": British playwright, William Shakespeare (1564-1616). The meaning of "new 'Brief'" as Holmes uses it has not yet been discovered.

Carlyle, nor Thackeray ... Dickens: British authors, Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863), and Charles Dickens (1812-1870).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Library of Harvard University, Papers of Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1838-1890 (inclusive). GA 38.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick

10 November 1890

My dear Loulie

I hear by the way of Charles Street that you have been ill and I write to say that I hope you are fast getting well again and to flaunt it in your face that I am very well myself! But very busy, which is apt to lead to a season of depression of body and especially of mind — It never has seemed to me that I was meant for an Ornament alone — but trying

[*Page 2*]

to be useful and energetic is not apt to be successful either to [judge *corrected*] from certain standpoints. This sounds very self-contemplative and shallow — but forgive a well meant effort to amuse you!

I have been going on very quietly since I wrote you or saw you last — My mother* has been a very great deal more comfortable until yesterday when through a sudden chill or the change of weather she had to go back to bed again. — But she has been well enough

[*Page 3*]

to really enjoy her drives, all wrapped up in furs and taking the "way of the wind," and so the autumn weather has proved kind to us, gray as it has sometimes been. My sister Mary* has been away on some visits and I have had a very dear quiet time, helping my dear mother to keep house

and playing that she still could do it all. Then I have been writing a good deal and [also *?*] riding a little and going down river one lovely afternoon and coming up with the tide

[*Page 4*]

and being quite Betty Leicester-like!* in my pleasures of outdoor life.* You would have laughed one day when my nephew Theodore* and I were far out of town among the pastures, and began to play at scouting for Indians which much occupy his eleven year old mind — you can imagine how we saw feathered heads peering over the hills and rode for our lives — and then discovered the camp-fire of these deadly savages and were relieved at discovering that they were not a war party but had their squaws with them and were on their way to

[*Page 5*]

the mountains to cut tent poles, their own, fastened to their ponies, being worn to stub!! The quiet pastures never knew such works, but indeed I can "play" as well as ever I could, and I could be dead in earnest with sand pies if occasion offered. Let us try next summer? ——

Have you seen the new paper* that is started for the Girls' Clubs? Far and Near? I think it promises very well — I will send you a copy with a story which I gave them, and

[*Page 6*]

had to write in a great hurry, but it turns out pretty well if only I could have corrected it enough. It is not always the pieces of work that one works over most that are most satisfactory to the reading public! —

Next week I hope to go to town for a day or two and I shall try to see you so please to Get Well* at once!

Yours affectionately,

S. O. J.

Notes

mother: Caroline Frances Perry Jewett died on 21 October 1891. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Leicester like: The protagonist Jewett's *Betty Leicester: A Story for Girls* (1890).

Theodore: Theodore Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

paper: Jewett appears to have written "papers."

Richard Cary notes: "The National League of Women Workers, New York, initiated this magazine [*Far and Near*] in November 1890. Jewett's story, 'Miss Esther's Guest,' appeared in that first issue, vol. I, pp. 10-12."

Get Well: Jewett has written these words extra large.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

South Berwick Maine

12 November 1890

Editors of The Independent

Gentlemen*

I thank you for your note but I shall have to decline to make any more engagements just at present. It is a bad plan, I find, to write less and promise more!

Your sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Gentlemen: The formality of this note seems somewhat mysterious, as Jewett was well acquainted with William Hayes Ward, editor of *The Independent*, her friend and neighbor in South Berwick. She had published more than 30 pieces in *The Independent* by 1890. Key to Correspondents.

However, it is possible that this letter is addressed not to the national weekly, but to the local South Berwick and Salmon Falls newspaper, also *The Independent*. Whether Jewett ever published anything in this newspaper is not known.

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Scott Frederick Stoddart's transcription is in his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Selected Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett*,1988. New transcription and notes.

Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

63, M^{t} Vernon Street.

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

[*15 November 1890*]*

My dear Sarah —

It requires some courage to send my simple little books to a distinguished author, but I send them because I wish to, and because you have been so very good to me. I think I have all your books with your autograph. Perhaps you may find time in your busy life to turn over the leaves and glance at the little stories whose

[*Page 2*]

only merit perhaps is their truthfulness. Every expression in Brampton is true to the old-time life, and the other little book contains the real happenings that have come into my own life. I am sorry to hear your dear Mother is ill, and I wish I could know just how she is. I heard from you and Mary* through Mifs Johnson.* I was in Bradford a few days ago. Please remember me

[*Page 3*]

with love to your mother and Mary and believe me

very cordially yours

Mary B. Claflin

November fifteenth

Notes

1890: This date is well supported by information in the letter. Jewett's mother, Caroline, died 21 October 1891. Mary Claflin sent two of her books with this letter, both published in 1890: *Brampton Sketches* and *Real Happenings*.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Johnson: Almost certainly this is Annie Elizabeth Johnson (1826-1894) who was principal of the Bradford Academy in Bradford, MA, 1875-1894. See *Bradford: A New England Academy* (1930) by Jean Sarah Pond, Ch. 14.Pond reports that Mary and Sarah Orne Jewett were friends of Miss Johnson and frequent visitors at the Bradford Academy (244-5). Johnson was a leader during Mary Jewett's 1889 tour of Europe.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 1 Folder 050.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Isabella Stewart Gardner

148 Charles Street

Tuesday 18 November

[*1890*]*

Dear Mrs Gardner

You will find that passage from Amiel's Journal* translated in Mr Arnold's essay* — p. 326, the Second Series of Essays in Criticism. I do not know where to tell you to look for it in the original — but I am sure that one ought not to find fault with Mr Arnold's

[*Page 2*]

rendering!

Thank you for your charming kindness yesterday. I look forward with real pleasure to the friendship of the little Club.* Mrs Fields* seemed to think that you had a right to play cockneys and call it H_it!*

Your ever sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: While this date seems probable, it also is somewhat problematic. 18 November fell on a Tuesday in 1890 and 1902. In November 1902, Jewett was confined to her home in South Berwick after her September carriage accident. However, there is as yet no evidence that Jewett was in Boston on this date in 1890. Jewett seems to imply that the "little club" has been newly formed. The only currently documented meeting of that club took place in February of 1894.

Amiel's Journal: Henri Frédéric Amiel (1821-1881) was a Swiss moral philosopher, poet, and critic. His *Journal Intime* (private journal) was published posthumously, beginning in 1884. Matthew Arnold's *Essays in Criticism: Second Series* appeared shortly after his death in 1888. The passage from the journal, translated on pp. 326-7, reads:

> In society people are expected to behave as if they lived on ambrosia and concerned themselves with no interests but such as are noble. Care, need, passion, do not exist. All

> realism is suppressed as brutal. In a word, what is called *le grand monde* gives itself for the moment the flattering illusion that it is moving in an ethereal atmosphere and breathing the air of the gods. For this reason all vehemence, any cry of nature, all real suffering, all heedless familiarity, any genuine sign of passion, are startling and distasteful in this delicate *milieu*, and at once destroy the collective work, the cloud-palace, the imposing architectural creation raised by common consent. It is like the shrill cock-crow which breaks the spell of all enchantments, and puts the fairies to flight. These select gatherings produce without intending it a sort of concert for eye and ear, an improvised work of art. By the instinctive collaboration of everybody concerned, wit and taste hold festival, and the associations of reality are exchanged for the associations of imagination. So understood, society is a form of poetry; the cultivated classes deliberately recompose the idyll of the past, and the buried world of Astraea. Paradox or not, I believe that these fugitive attempts to reconstruct a dream, whose only end is beauty, represent confused reminiscences of an age of gold haunting the human heart; or rather, aspirations towards a harmony of things which every-day reality denies to us, and of which art alone gives us a glimpse.

Jewett's friend, Mrs. Humphry Ward (see Correspondents) also produced a translation of Amiel's journal in 1885.

Club: Shana McKenna, archivist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum says that Jewett refers to the "It" club, a lunch club formed by Julia Ward Howe and Isabella Stewart Gardner. Its other members, in addition to Jewett, included:

Edith Greenough Wendell (1859-1938), author of *Old Quincy House at Quincy, Massachusetts* and wife of Barrett Wendell (1855-1921), Harvard English professor, lecturer and author.

Margaret Deland (1857-1945)

Katherine Parkman Coolidge (1858-1900). See Correspondents.

Sarah Choate Sears (1858-1935)

Alma Canfield Sterling Porter (1863-), wife of Harvard Medical School professor William Townsend Porter (1862-1949).

Martha Silsbee (1859-1928)

The Gardner museum holds a guest book that documents a 12 February 1894 meeting at Gardner's home, 152 Beacon St., Boston. See Morris Carter, *Isabella Stewart Gardner and Fenway Court*, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1925. pp.141-2, and Isabella Stewart Gardner, *Guest book* vol. 1 (1893-1894), page 37-38.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

H it: Jewett's noting of Gardner's "cockney" rendering of "It," seems to imply that the club will be a "hit," in the sense of being popular with its members. The *Oxford English Dictionary* suggests that the use of the word to refer to a popular performance (e.g. a hit song) first appeared around 1908. However, the use of the word to indicate a more generalized successful performance dates to 1811.

However, Douglass Shand-Tucci, in *The Art of the Scandal* (1997), argues that the word "It" may well have had more carnal connotations for the club's members, connotations perhaps amplified by Jewett's comments (see p. 279).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA. Transcription.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury Mass

Nov 18 1890

My dear friend,

It was good — it was like thy dear self to write me. I was feeling a little lonely when it came — an old friend of mine, a near neighbor* is lying very ill, and must soon pass away. He was a plain farmer but a great reader and [thinker *?*] and we have been always fast friends.

I am glad to hear that thy mother is more comfortable. I have never got over the loss of my mother. I had a letter from A.F.* a short time ago. She is looking forward to thy coming to Boston. What a sweet little poem [*two unrecognized words*] "in a green nook by the sea."* I am anxious to see thy new book.* Meanwhile I look over [they *so transcribed, meaning* thy] old ones.

I hope thee will stop here on thy way to Boston. It will be a great pleasure to me to see thee again. I dread the coming winter and the snow storm of yesterday looked very dismal to me. But I suppose it will all be well — nothing is so bad as our fear It will be; and the dear Lord is over all.

In spite of the wet weather there are times I hope thee have enjoyed the uncommonly fine colors of the season. I never saw the leaves so gorgeous before at Oak Knoll. An English tourist

called on me at their brightest, but he could see nothing worthy of his attention.

Always affectionately thy fr.

John G. Whittier

Notes

near neighbor: The identity of this neighbor is not yet known.

A. F. Annie Adams Fields.

green nook: Annie Fields's poem, "Revisiting a Green Nook," appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* 8 (October 1890, p. 472).

new book: In 1890, Jewett published three books: *Strangers and Wayfarers*, *Betty Leicester* and *Tales of New England.* The last appeared in the spring of 1890, so presumably, Whittier anticipates one of the first two. While *Betty Leicester* is a "story for girls" and seems the less likely alternative, it is set in Riverport, a renamed South Berwick, and might well interest Whittier for its depiction of local scenes familiar to him.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. From typescript of an unknown transcriber.

Celia Thaxter to John Greenleaf Whittier

47 State St. Portsmouth N.H.

Nov 19th (90

My dear friend:

This little blue cornflower came from the very [front *?*] of the Greenacre house this morning — I found it growing at the edge of the bank in front of the piazza = my brother & I drove down there this morning — And what a sweet place it is! No wonder you like to be there! We looked into the windows, for no one was there, & saw the pretty & elegant & tasteful interior & the pleasant fire place in the office, with the lamp on the table & the chairs gathered about it as if people had just risen up & gone out from the room — And the clock was going & everything seemed

[*Page 2*]

so friendly & home like! I looked down at the water of the placid river & thought how beautifully it must reflect the crimson summer sunsets & wished I might have watched some of them with you in the lovely summer just gone. Did you ever know such a summer? Such perfect weather day after day? It seems to me I never did!

I hope you are well, dear friend. I am much better, but find my salvation out of doors, & am out all the time while daylight lasts — It is the only way I can get sleep

[*Page 3*]

at night & peace by day. But I am so much better than last winter! Oscar* & I explore the country everywhere — We went to the top of Agamenticus* the other day — it was so fine! The hill was covered to the top with matted may-flower vines, set thick with buds, for spring! I gathered arms full, there were such acres of it, & am [waxing *?*] the blossoms out. Today we have been to Stratham & Exeter, — we went one day to Cape Neddick & looked into Boon Island's back door! We are really getting to know something of the country

[*Page 4*]

about, & most interesting we find it.

I send you my Xmas card a little in advance of time! which Prang* has "chromo'd" — I do hope you are well, dear friend, & I send you my dearest love & faithful remembrance & am yours always affectionately

Celia Thaxter.

Notes

Oscar: Oscar Laighton, Thaxter's brother. Key to Correspondents.

Agamenticus: The highest point in York County, ME, near Portsmouth, NH.

Prang: Boston printer and publisher, Louis Prang (1824-1909), known as "father of the American Christmas card." Chromolithography is a method for making multi-color prints. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

25 November 1890

Dear Friend

I was so sorry to have to give up stopping in Amesbury on my way home last week but I was not well all the time I was in Boston and had to change all my plans. Now that I am better it seems quite a foolish [week *corrected*] to have spent! If

you are still in Amesbury until after Thanksgiving perhaps I can go over

[*Page 2*]

someday, if not I shall go to Oak Knoll before very long instead. In the mean time I send you a new storybook Strangers and Wayfarers* which is a pretty book outside and that is something!

I had a very dear good time with our A.F.* She had been spending two or three days in Baltimore where there has been a reception and

[*Page 3*]

inspection of Johns Hopkins hospital and much talk about the new medical school for women. We both tried to do something about it in the Spring — She will have some interesting things to tell you when you see her again, about her journey to Baltimore and the people she saw. One was "Mis' President Harrison!"* but A.F. does not set store by her { — } at least it so appeared to me!!

While I was in Boston

[*Page 4*]

the Journal of Sir Walter Scott came from Mr. Douglas* in [Edinbur *so it appears*] who edited it, and I devoured both volumes at once — You will enjoy it so much — there is a great deal in it that Lockhart could not use in print soon after Sir Walter's death { — } much about himself too. It is a most Enchanting, appealing book — — Good-bye dear dear friend — I do very much wish to see you soon and I like to remember that I am your very near relation, especially at Thanksgiving time —

Sarah.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

The Pound Hill* geese and turkeys will take the road to "the corner" tomorrow!

Notes

Strangers and Wayfarers: Jewett's story collection appeared in 1890. The cover was by Sarah Wyman Whitman.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Harrison: Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901) was U.S. President 1889-1893. His first wife, Caroline Lavinia Scott (1832-1892), was a music teacher and charity worker. According to Wikipedia, their daughter was Mary Harrison McKee (1858-1930). Mrs. McKee acted as her mother's assistant during Harrison's presidency.

Douglas: David Douglas. Key to Correspondents.

The Journal of Sir Walter Scott (1890) edited by Douglas is a diary of 1825-1832. The journal was noted for its unusual candor.

Scott (1771-1832) was a Scottish author. J. G. Lockhart's *Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott* appeared in 1837.

Pound Hill: Pound Hill is a hill in South Berwick. The Jewett residence in 1890 was on the corner where the main road northward branched toward the villages of Berwick and North Berwick.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883., [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

Friday 28th November

[*1890*]*

Dear Loulie

I dont like his* looks at all — you will frighten me into saying no to everything and every body and I shall never write any more little stories "at all mirover" as the people say in Black's* novels. By the way, have you read A Princess of Thule lately? it is always such a delightful book to re-read — you find it so much nicer than you expected every time.

[*Page 2*]

I had already made a vow, before I read your note of admonition that after I copied a story and finished a very brief sketch and got my paper on Sarah, Countess of Rumford* off my mind, that I wouldn't get in for any more writing. Yet this very day one flashed clear and bright into my mind, and I know by the way I see it that it will be written. The name is The Paley Twins:* and so there is half a winter's work. The Countess of Rumford is really

[*Page 3*]

worth doing. Perhaps you dont know that the famous count left a daughter, New England born and bred, who came back from her gay life in Munich and Paris and London and spent the last of her years in a quiet New Hampshire town — a countess of the Bavarian Court and Concord are such a funny pair of thoughts to put together! She was a near relation too, of some of my

connections and I have always been hearing about her — yet never thought

[*Page 4*]

of writing about her until within a few years. I must tell you a great deal about her some time.

Dear Loulie I hope that you are better — but if you still [feel *corrected*] your throat I wish that you would go away for two or three weeks. At this time of year one doesn't dare to go out of doors much and colds are things of the house. I shall preach from this text for I hope to see you next week

[*Up the left side and across the top margins of page 1*]

when, as the plan is now, I am to go to town again. Love to your mother.

Yours affectionately,

S. O. J.

I am so glad that you liked the St. Augustine story.*

Notes

1890: Jewett mentions her St. Augustine story, which probably was "Jim's Little Woman" from 1890. See note below. In 1890, 28 November fell on Friday.

his: Jewett has printed this word in extra large letters.

Black's: Scottish novelist, William Black (1841-1898). Richard Cary notes: "Five of William Black's novels about his native Scotland highlands are in Jewett's library, including *A Princess of Thule*, first published in 1874, and described as 'one of the most popular of a popular novelist's novels.' Jewett derived the name of her favorite horse, Sheila, from the heroine of this book."

Rumford: Sarah Thompson, Countess of Rumford (1774-1852).Richard Cary notes:

Among Jewett's papers in the Houghton Library is an unfinished holograph manuscript of some twenty-five odd sheets, the ink and handwriting testifying that they were written at different intervals, with plethoric alterations, entitled "The Countess of Rumford." There is no evidence of a fair copy or of publication.

> Sarah Thompson ... was depicted by Jewett as a *grande dame,* an ornament to both European and American societies. After her return to Rumford (now Concord), New Hampshire, she involved herself deeply in philanthropies for children, widows, orphans, and the insane.

Paley Twins: Jewett published no story with this title, and Richard Cary reports that there is no known manuscript of it.

St. Augustine story: Jewett published two works set in St. Augustine, "Jim's Little Woman" in *Harper's* (December 1890), collected in *A Native of Winby and Other Tales* (1893) and "A Lonely Worker" in *Far and Near* (April 1893). As this letter is dated at the end of November, it seems more likely that Dresel has read Jewett's story in the December *Harper's*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47. State St. Nov. 30th (90

My dearest Annie:

How glad I was to see your beloved handwriting again! It is so long since I heard from you — I am so much interested in your seeing the Gilders* — didn't you know we have never met? Yet I feel as if I knew them very well! To think of your flying off to Baltimore!* I really wish I could fly off to you for a space, but I think I shall never be able to go any where again, so curiously am I constrained at home, on all sides. Poor Karl* is not

[*Page 2*]

enough, other complications there are that tie me fast. Life is such a strange thing! such a mixture —

I had a dear letter from Mr Whittier* a few days ago. My brother & I had driven to the Greenacre in Eliot, where he passed last summer, the most enchanting place! & I found a blue cornflower blossoming before the door & sent it to him & he was pleased & wrote me a dear letter — But he said "the years grow very heavy & my sight fails — I can read very little & the long nights are tedious" — poor dear soul! Why doesn't he live where

[*Page 3*]

some of us could run in & cheer him up now & then! you or Pinny,* or "some of us"! Did I tell you how we drive every where? to Greenland &

Stratham & Newington, Great Bay, Newmarket, Durham, Dover, York, & Bald Head Cliff & I know not where else, to say nothing of exploring the whole coast nearly to Newburyport! It is beautiful & out of doors is my salvation, all the morning, all the afternoon I drive or walk, & so purchase sleep at night.

But it seems as if I never missed you so much, dear Annie, & I would give a great deal to be able to go to see you as I used once a week — those pleasant evenings! How beautiful

[*Page 4*]

they are to remember! I wonder if it is always going to be like this the rest of my life, so far, & so imprisoned — But I have so much to be thankful for — I dont mean to complain — It is much that it is possible for me to keep poor Karl & protect & comfort & succor him — I am very thankful that I may —

We are yet uncertain about the syndicate* — Whether the [news *?*] about the Barings will make a difference, I dont know — But money is hard to raise in England just now — We are sending to Farquhar* for next summer's flowers, Cedric & I — the seeds thereof — Oscar went out to the Shoals today & brought me a bunch of flowers from my deserted garden, pansies & marigolds & gilliflowers, & tomorrow is the 1st of December! Do write soon again to your most loving CT.

I shd. love to see the Walter Scott{.}*

Notes

Gilders: Richard Watson Gilder. Key to Correspondents.

Baltimore: Fields went to Baltimore for an "inspection" of the new Johns Hopkins Hospital. See Jewett to Whittier of 25 November 1890. Also, Fields's sister, the painter Elizabeth (Lissie) Adams (1825-1898), resided in Baltimore, MD. Key to Correspondents.

Karl: Thaxter's disabled son. She also mentions her brothers, Oscar and Cedric Laighton. Key to Correspondents.

Whittier: American poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Pinny: Thaxter is using intimate nicknames shared among Jewett, Fields and herself. Pinny is Jewett; Flower is Fields; Sandpiper is Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

syndicate: In *Sandpiper* (Randall 1963, 1999 pp. 233-4), Rosamond Thaxter says that an English syndicate showed interest in purchasing the Thaxter brothers' hotel property on the Isles of the Shoals. Negotiations continued through the fall of 1890 and spring of 1891, finally without success.

During 1890, Barings Bank of London experienced a financial crisis, from which they were rescued by other banks. Still, financial markets were thrown into turmoil, causing the Panic of 1890.

Farquhar: R. & J. Farquhar Company of Boston, MA sold seeds and gardening supplies by mail order.

Walter Scott: Thaxter refers to *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott*, (1890) first edited and published whole in 2 volumes by a Fields and Jewett friend, David Douglas. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Monday.

148 Charles St —

[*2 December 1890*]*

My dear friend:

How can I [thank *corrected*] you fitly for your books. The comfort and tenderness shut in between these two small covers are not to be measured in words. The loving inscription too so indeed precious.

Yesterday I went to the hospital to see a poor soul who had sent for me. I slipped the first volume of your

[*2*]

small blue and gold edition into the pocket of my cloak and presently the ^woman^ asked me to read to her. When I had done she said "I had no idea Whittier had written such things, such beautiful things, such hymns — They are just what I want — Go on{.}" And so I read and read again until an hour had passed and I had stayed quite

[*3*]

as long as was good for her. [*mark*] I left her at peace.

I have often thought that no poet, nor teacher could ask more than to be a ministering angel to humanity under such conditions{.}

It would give me great happiness to be able to see you on your birthday but it is a little doubtful because I have been

[*4*]

shut up at home with a cold ^of late and^ yesterday was my first venture out and it was not a distinguished success!

Dear friend! again I thank you for this beloved book.

Sarah* has been here for a week or so, as you know, but she returns to South Berwick today.

We enjoyed Phoebe's* visit sincerely. She is a dear good child.

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

You will doubtless hear from General Armstrong* before this. Mr. Booker Washington's* school at Tuskeegee is coming on

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

bravely. It is Hampton's child. your loving

Annie Fields

Notes

1890: This date is the Monday before Whittier's birthday on Sunday 7 December in 1890.

This same date in another hand appears with other notes on page 1. There is no rationale. The best clue would seem to be Whittier apparently having just given Fields a 2-volume collection of his "complete poems," bound in blue and gold. With enough digging, one might discover when such a collection was published. For the present, I have accepted the 1890 date as probably from about the right time.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Phoebe: Phebe Woodman. See the Whittier entry in Jewett's Principal Correspondents, above.

Armstrong: Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Key to Correspondents.

Washington's: A graduate of Armstrong's Hampton Institute, Booker Taliaferro Washington (1856-1915) became the first leader of the Tuskegee Normal School in Alabama in 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Wednesday morning

[*Winter 1890*]

Dear Mary

There is a little snow-storm all over the frozen ground which is enough to dull the noise: it has been growing worse and worse these past few days. But no sleighing yet. I never saw so plain a snowstorm hanging in the sky as yesterday — when I went out it was already beginning, but out came the sun presently. I had been bespoken on Friday by H. M. & Co.* but all affairs were seriously attended to in a long session yesterday morning. I wish there were one person there who cared about books. Most of them might as well be keeping up a hardware business and instead of being proud to print the great books as Mr. Fields* and the old publishers used to be — they love to have Kate Douglas Wiggin & Hopkinson Smith.* All well enough, but they bring standards down, and in the mean time the great books of thirty years ago are still as good paying property as publishers could wish. But they are all looking for sensations in spite of that.

I felt quite tired but I had half an hour to spare and went in to see Mrs. Cabot* who was delightful, but she has had another turn of cold and was on the couch in her room reading the English papers, and looking quite pale and 'wistful'! Brother Robert* went off without great enthusiasm and when he saw the snow beginning, he gave notice that if it kept on he should come right back from Brother Cuckson's* without going to Salem. I think he is to be expected this afternoon so that I must be in, though I doubt if A. F.* gets out to the conference. She feels much better today and had the doctor yesterday she felt so bad, and thats all I can say in this moment. She looks a good deal better than she has for some days. Yes, old Helen* was a noble sight but I know she was foolish to come down by the eight o'clock train and romp all day: she had a headache for it sure as the world. I know old Helen's tricks & manners. I hope dear Aunt Mary* is nicely again. A little grog is excellent for a sore throat. She can take it as a medicine and then it wont taste as bad to her as if she

called it a pleasure. Mrs. Fields sends her love to you all. My best respects to Aunt Gilman*

Sarah

Give my love to Cousin Fanny & the Boys. I wish I were there! Sarah

Notes

Winter 1890: This tentative date is based mainly upon Jewett complaining about Houghton Mifflin adding Kate Douglas Wiggin and Francis Hopkinson Smith to their publication list; they became Houghton, Mifflin authors in 1889.

H. M. & Co.: Jewett's publisher, Houghton, Mifflin &Co.

Mr. Fields: James T. Fields, husband of Annie Adams Fields.

Kate Douglas Wiggin & Hopkinson Smith: For Wiggin and Francis Hopkinson Smith, Key to Correspondents. According to Wikipedia, Wiggin was added to the Houghton, Mifflin book list in 1889. WorldCat lists Smith's first Houghton publication in 1889, as well.

Mrs. Cabot: Susan Burley Cabot. Key to Correspondents.

Brother Robert: Dr. Robert Collyer. Key to Correspondents.

Brother Cuckson's: This is probably John Cuckson (1846-1907), Unitarian clergyman and author, pastor of the Arlington Street Unitarian Church in Boston (1892-1907).

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

old Helen: Richard Cary identifies "Old Helen" as Helen Bigelow Merriman. Key to Correspondents.

Aunt Mary: Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Key to Correspondents.

Aunt Gilman ... Cousin Fanny & the Boys: It is not yet clear whom sister Mary will see among the aunts. Jewett may refer to Alice Dunlap Gilman or to Helen Williams Gilman. Key to Correspondents. Aunt Helen often is associated with Fanny, who has not been identified. Aunt Alice, however, had two sons, of whom Charles was a favorite cousin.

Sometimes, Cousin Fanny/Fannie is Frances F. Perry (1861-1953), Jewett's mother's niece, the daughter of Dr. William G. Perry and Lucretia M. Fisk. See William Gilman Perry and Lucretia Morse Fisk Perry in Key to Correspondents.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Folder 74, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Boston. 13 December 1890

My dear friend

I do not know how to thank you for the most dear and beloved words which you have written in the book* which came yesterday. They touch my heart, and make me wish many things — it would seem as if I had really been to you what I have wished to be and as if you had read my

[*Page 2*]

intentions as if they were deeds. But perhaps I never can show you how much you have been to me and how much you have helped me to live toward higher things and have helped me most of all in always taking my will without waiting for the imperfect deed!

It is delightful to have these later poems all together,

[*Page 3*]

the little book was a most charming surprise to A.F.* and me and we shall read the poems over again together with new pleasure and fresh thanks.

We had a dear little visit from Phebe.* I wish that you had been here too.

— I must hurry home on Monday and I am afraid that I cannot go to see you on your birthday but I shall [think *?*] of you

[*Page 4*]

as always with true affection and the lovingest gratitude.

Yours always

Sarah.

Notes

book: Whittier's 1890 book was *At Sundown*, the privately printed version, which probably is the one he sent to Jewett. A posthumous 1892-3 edition contains additional poems. His birthday was 17 December.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman. See the Whittier entry in Jewett's Principal Correspondents, above.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883., [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169). At the bottom of page 4, upside down in two other hands: "Sarah Orne Jewett" (ink)" and "1890" (pencil).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

17 December 1890

My dear friend

I wish you a happy birthday and I wish that I could have gone to Oak Knoll to help you keep it, but I shall save my visit until later. I hope that my dear A.F.* will give you a message from me [as *corrected*] she wrote me that she

[*Page 2*]

meant to spend the day with you. I only send this word to give you my love and to send my sisters' best wishes with mine — I keep your last little book* as a great treasure. Good bye and God bless you always. I think of many things to

[*Page 3*]

say to you that it would be very hard to write.

Yours most affectionately

Sarah.

Notes

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields. Whittier's birthday was 17 December.

sisters': Carrie Jewett Eastman and Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

book: Whittier's 1890 privately printed book was *At Sundown*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883., [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169). On the back of page 4, in two other hands: "Sarah O." (ink)" and "1890" (pencil).

George Haven Putnam to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]
G. P. Putnam's Sons
27 & 29 WEST 23rd
STREET
NEW YORK
LONDON, 25
HENRIETTA STREET
COVENT
GARDEN
[*End letterhead*]

12/17/90

Dear Miss Jewett,

Mr. Unwin, the London publisher of the "Story of the Nations" series, has finally offered to take a set of the plates of the "Story of the Normans"* at a small advance on the cost of reproducing these. –

We are desirous, for more reasons than one, that this volume should not continue to be omitted from the London list of

[*Page 2*]

the series, and we have therefore accepted Mr. Unwin's offer and shall plan to ship his set of the plates early in the New Year.

The margin of profit on this shipment, amounting to £35.0.0. , we shall divide with the author, passing to her credit £17.10.0.

Kindly send us , as early as convenient, a list of such corrections as seem to you important, and we will have made (at our own cost) all that may not entail any exceptional outlay.

We can secure no allowance from Mr. Unwin for the cost of correcting the plates for his English edition, and we shall wish, therefore, to keep the expense of these corrections as moderate as possible.

We shall send you in ~~January~~ February, statement showing sales to date of the book.

Yours very truly

G. H. Putnam

Miss S.O. Jewett,

Charles st. Boston.

Notes

Normans: Jewett's popular history, *The Story of the Normans* (1887) appeared, slightly corrected, in London in 1891, with a revised title: *The Normans*. See "*The Story of the Normans* --

Publication and Sales Information" in *The Story of the Normans: Related Materials*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press, 2023.

The ms. of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1743 (185) Putnam, George Haven, 1 letter; 1890.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Saturday night

[*December 1890*]*

Dearest Fuff

The letter from Mr. Collyer!* was from a person who sought to know my opinion of the novel of the future!! But he never will. ((— on the contrary{.} (I now find this beginning and go on with it Monday morning)){.}* I copied for him those two wonderful bits of Flaubert, — "Et [écrire *corrected*] la vie ordinaire comme on écrit l'histoire —" and the other "Ce n'est pas de faire rire — mais d'agir

[*Page 2*]

á la façon de la nature, c'est a dire de faire rêver"* ——-

I keep these pinned up on the little drawers at the back of the secretary, for a constant reminder. — This morning I had a nice letter from Loulie* and from Georgie Halliburton* with your dear letter and Dr. Weir Mitchell's* new poems which he made a kind note of sending me last September at Newport. Uncle Will* has just come and approves Mothers condition most highly. It is so

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

I send you just as much love from your own Pinny

Notes

December 1890: Fields penciled "Winter 1897" in the upper right of page 1. It seems likely that Jewett refers in her first sentence to an article by Foster Coates (1855-1914), eventual city editor of the New York *Evening Journal*. His "The Future of the Novel" appeared in *The Author* 3:3 (March 1891) pp. 47-49, reprinted from the Springfield *Homestead*. The article consists of quotations from a number of contemporary writers on "the novel of the future." The authors included are: Richard Henry Stoddard, Octave Thanet, Edna Dean Proctor, Charles King, George W. Cable, Thomas Nelson Page, Charles Dudley Warner, Noah Brooks, Mary J. Holmes, Marion Harland, Amelia B. Edwards, Rose Terry Cooke, S. G. W. Benjamin, and William Dean Howells. Jewett is not quoted.

Mr. Collyer: Robert Collyer. Key to Correspondents.

morning)): The parenthesis marks on this page are confusing. Some are clearly by Fields and some may be by Jewett. It seems likely that only those around (I now find ... morning) are by Jewett. The deleted double open parentheses and the second closed parenthesis around ((on the contrary ... and morning)) seem to be in blue ink or pencil and made by Fields.

Flaubert ... "Écrire la vie ordinaire comme on écrit l'histoire"; and the other, "Ce n'est pas de faire rire - mais d'agir a la façon de la nature, c'est à dire de faire rêver": The first quotation is from a letter to Louise Colet of March 27 (Easter Sunday), 1853: "To write ordinary life as one writes history" (Translation by Carla Zecher). The whole sentence, as translated by Francis Steegmuller (*Selected Letters of Gustave Flaubert*. New York: Farrar, Straus, 1953, pp. 148), reads: "It is perhaps absurd to want to give prose the rhythm of verse (keeping it distinctly prose, however) and to write of ordinary life as one writes history or epic (but without falsifying the subject)."

The second quotation is from Flaubert's letter to Louise Colet of 26 August, 1853. "It is not to evoke laughter — but to act in the manner of nature, which is to say, to cause to dream." (Translation by Carla Zecher). The whole passage as translated by Steegmuller (pp. 163-4) is: "What seems to me the highest and the most difficult achievement of Art is not to make us laugh or cry, or to rouse our lust or our anger, but to do as nature does — that is, fill us with wonderment."

Loulie: Louisa Loring Dresel. Key to Correspondents.

Georgie Halliburton: Key to Correspondents.

Dr. Weir Mitchell's new poems: Silas Weir Mitchell. Key to Correspondents. If the date of this letter is correct, then Mitchell's most recent volume of poems would be *A Psalm of Deaths and Other Poems* (1890).

Uncle Will: Dr. William Gilman Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Pinny: That the final sentence does not follow smoothly from page 2 suggests that there is missing material in this manuscript. The marginal line on this page was deleted by Fields in blue pencil.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

Fields includes passages from this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), pp. 165.

Dearest, — The letter by Mr. Collyer was from a person who sought to know my opinion of the novel of the future! But he never will.

I copied for him those two wonderful bits of Flaubert, — "Écrire la vie ordinaire comme on écrit l'histoire"; and the other, "Ce n'est pas de faire rire — mais d'agir a la façon de la nature, c'est à dire de faire rêver." I keep these pinned up on the little drawers at the back of the secretary, for a constant reminder.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick Maine*

18 December.

[*1890*]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

I wish very much that you could print in the Atlantic a paper that I heard Mrs. Whitman read on Colour — the [other *corrected*] evening. It is very full of suggestions — I think that no one could fail to be wiser and to find his power of enjoyment vastly increased — no one who read it or heard it could

[*2*]

go away ungrateful. Of course it would need working over in certain places to change it into magazine shape. I am sure that you would make allowance for this in the first looking over. I write without having said anything to Mrs. Whitman, but I hope that you will ask her to let you see the paper

[*3*]

and that she will not say no! I tried to find you at your office a few days ago wishing to speak of this, but you had gone out of town.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Maine: This word may be in another hand.

Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents. Richard Cary notes that Whitman's article never appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St.

Friday —

[*19 December 1890*]*

My dear friend;

The stormy birthday was made very pleasant to me by the sight of your beloved face once more. Sarah* made me write her all the particulars and she promises herself a kind of aftermath of the good day when the holidays are over — She has had a village fair

[*2*]

to look after and great deeds of this nature to perform.

I find Scott's Journal* is lent but you shall surely have it when I can get it back again. I will ask Phoebe to mail it to Celia Thaxter* when you have done with

[*3*]

it —

I enclose a word from Houghton. What a help you have been to them!

Please thank the ladies and Phoebe for helping to make my visit a delightful one. I hope you will not be obliged to leave your comfortable moorings while the weather is so cold.

[*4*]

Good=bye my dear dear friend. The earth is beautiful to me because of your presence.

Tell Mr. Whittier the sick woman at the hospital* said "what a comfort he has been to me."

Yours in

deep affection

Annie Fields

Notes

1890: Notes in one or more other hands on the first and last pages of this letter offer this date. Fields mentions several topics that appear in other letters from early December 1890, notably concerning visiting Whittier on his 17 December birthday. Also, at this time, a copy of *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott* was circulating between Fields, Jewett, and Celia Thaxter. Fields reports that she has just visited Whittier on his 17 December birthday, which fell on Wednesday in 1890. 19 December, then, was the following Friday.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Scott's Journal: *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott* (1890) edited by Jewett correspondent David Douglas.

Phoebe: Phebe Woodman. See the Whittier entry in Jewett's Principal Correspondents, above.

Thaxter: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

hospital: See Fields to Whittier of 2 December 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*19 December 1890*]

Dear & dear fellow-traveller:

I go tomorrow and for all the week. This I find more difficult than usual this year — but it is best, so I am off.

There's hope in [*unrecognized word* me *?*] that you will be here when I return: and [meantime *?*] I think of you and love you, and ask for a Xmas blessing in your heart.

Your

SW

December 19, 1890

Notes

19 December 1890: An envelope associated with this letter was cancelled on 20 Dec.1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 -107.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

47. State St. Ports

Dec. 20th (90

My dear Pinny:

Thank you so much for your kind letter. Dear Pin if I thought Mr Hunt* wouldn't like it I'd go a barefooted Sandpiper just before I'd print it. I dont think his people would dislike it — And I remember always how earnest Mr. Fields* was about printing it "after some altering", "it must be done," he said again & again & deplored the decision I held to at the time, of not printing it for some years, at least — But, if there is

[*Page 2*]

a doubt about it & if it is better not, it shall not see the light. At any rate I shall wait & do nothing rash about it!

You are a kind Pinny and I love you & am yours

Sandpiper

Notes

Mr. Hunt: Thaxter refers to plans to publish something about her painting mentor, William Morris Hunt (1824-1879). See Thaxter to Fields of 25 December 1890.

Mr. Fields: James T. Fields, deceased spouse of Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence MS Am 1743 Box 4, item 211. Thaxter, Celia (Laighton) 1835-1894. 10 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1888-1890 & [n.d.], 1888-1890.

A typescript is held by the Portsmouth Athenaeum MS129, Rosamond Thaxter's Papers for *Sandpiper*, Folder 12: Correspondence: Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1888-1893. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields Fragment

[*Sunday 21 December 1890*]*

Putnam who has just got back from London, and I find that I shall probably begin my proofs* within a fortnight. I am forgetting the worrisome detail a little now and dread taking it up again, but perhaps they will hurry through and shorten my miseries -- "Vanity Fair"* is read through -- a very great book; and for its time Tolstoi and Zola and Daudet and Howells and Mark Twain and Turgenieff and Miss Thackeray* of this day all rolled into one -- so wise and great it is

[*2*]

and reproachful and 'realistic' and full of splendid scorn of for meanness and wickedness which ^scorn^ the Zola school* seems to lack. And the tenderness and sweetness of the book is heavenly, that is all I can say about it! -- I am brimful of things to say [*deletion*] and yet I mustn't take too much from your Monday morning busyness. Good-by from

your loving Pinny --

Notes

1890: This letter probably follows George Haven Putnam to Jewett of 17 December 1890. Much of it appeared in a Fields transcription dated Sunday Evening, *Autumn* [*March 1891*].

"Vanity Fair": William Makepeace Thackeray, an English fiction writer, published *Vanity Fair* in 1847-8.

Miss Thackeray: Alphonse Daudet (1840-1897), French novelist and author of sketches. William Dean Howells (1837-1920) was the American author of *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885), and served as editor at *The Atlantic* and *Harper's*. Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens, 1835-1910) was the American author of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885). Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883) was the Russian author of *Fathers and Sons* (1862). Miss Thackeray is William M. Thackeray's daughter, also a novelist, Anne Isabella Thackeray, Lady Ritchie (1837-1919).

the Zola school: Émile Zola (1840-1902) was considered the leader of a French school of naturalistic fiction.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Fields Transcription
Annie Fields includes a passage from this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), pp. 55-6.

Mr. Putnam has just got back from London, and I find that I shall probably begin my proofs# within a fortnight. I am forgetting the worrisome detail a little now, and dread taking it up again, but perhaps they will hurry through and shorten my miseries. "Vanity Fair"* is read through, a very great book, and for its time Tolstoi and Zola and Daudet and Howells and Mark Twain and Turgenieff and Miss Thackeray* of *this* day all rolled into one, so wise and great it is and reproachful and realistic and full of splendid scorn for meanness and wickedness, which scorn the Zola school* seems to lack. And the tenderness and sweetness of the book is heavenly, that is all I can say about it. I am brimful of things to say.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick

22 December

[*1890*]*

Dear Loulie

I am sorry to have only these two photographs to send you with the book* and my most affectionate Christmas wishes. I have put away my negatives in such a safe place that I can't find them to have more printed. But I think that the Oldfields burying-ground* ranks highest as a work of art! and the

[*Page 2*]

dear old house where I was born and where I now sit writing to you (near the window over the porch) will be as interesting to you as any others of the little pictures. The perspective of the house is quite queer! but I expect great things from the next developing of sixty —

It is not very certain whether I shall be in town this week

[*Page 3*]

at any rate it will only be for a night and part of a day tomorrow night or Christmas night. An old cousin of ours here, of whom we are very fond, is, I fear, dying, and this makes my mother very depressed and she has not been quite so well lately at any rate. Then there is a wedding* of one of my cousins in Exeter tomorrow! It is a strange hurried week altogether.

Dear Loulie I am

[*Page 4*]

sure that you will have many thoughts beside those of Christmas merrymaking, but after all the best of Christmas is that one feels free even in repressed and undemonstrative New England to be as good as one knows how to other people and to give them all the pleasure one can. I can wish you a happy Christmas if not a merry one, and I do most heartily with much love.

Yours ever affectionately

S. O. J.

Notes

1890: Richard Cary assigned this date, presumably because it corresponds with the marriage of Jewett's cousin. See note below.

book: While this is not certain, it would seem likely that Jewett would give Dresel one of her own books for Christmas. Of the titles that appeared in 1890, the more recent was *Strangers and Wayfarers*.

ground: Richard Cary points out: "A photograph of the Goodwin House and the burying-ground is reproduced on page 594 of Jewett's "The Old Town of Berwick," *New England Magazine,* X (July 1894), 585-609." Cary's observation is somewhat confusing, for Jewett was not born in the Goodwin house, but in what is now the Jewett House Museum in South Berwick. Further, the burying-ground is not easily visible in the photo of the Goodwin house, and the images of graves in Jewett's essay are drawings by Louis A. Holman.

One may wonder whether Jewett refers to a photo of the burying-ground that is part of the Houghton Library collection of photos made to illustrate *Deephaven*.

https://iiif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:15059856$17i

All the photos in this collection are believed to be by Emma Coleman, but Jewett's reference here indicates that she was particularly proud of *her* burial ground photo. See Terry Heller, *Spirits and Photos*, 2nd edition 2024, from the Sarah Orne Jewett Press.

cousin: The dying cousin was Mary Elizabeth Jewett Nealley. See Jewett to Mary Bucklin Claflin of 28 December 1890.

Richard Cary identified the cousin to be married:

> Jewett's cousin was Helen Bell (not to be confused with Helen Choate Bell), the youngest daughter of ex-governor of New Hampshire, Charles Henry Bell who had twice married into the Exeter Gilman family, maternal cousins of the Jewetts. On the 23rd Miss Bell married Dr. Harold North Fowler, professor of Classics in Phillips Exeter Academy. The wedding company was described as "a large, brilliant assembly," including two of the Harvard senior faculty and "many people of prominence" from several states.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

12 / 22 '90

My dearest friend

I think the books (W Scott*) had better go to Celia Thaxter* first, as it takes me so long now to read a book, and let her send them to me at Amesbury as I expect to be there or at Newburyport before long.

[Thy *?*] presence at

[*Page 2*]

my birth-day* was the best part of it; it made the day beautiful which might otherwise have been sad and [lonesome *?*]. But somehow I did not see enough of thee; I was so selfish I wanted thee all to myself.

I had a lovely letter from S. O. J.* I find that my letters telegrams and messages on the

[*Page 3*]

occasion counted into the hundreds from all parts of the country and from England Scotland and Ireland{,} Australia and the Sandwich Islands.

This is a poor letter, but my best love goes with it{.} Ever more & more gratefully thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

W. Scott: Other letters from December 1890 indicate that the friends were circulating a copy of *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott*, (1890), edited and published whole in 2 volumes by a Fields and Jewett friend, David Douglas. Key to Correspondents.

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents.

birth-day: Whittier's 83rd birthday was 17 December 1890.

S. O. J.: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4663.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47 State St. Ports

Dec 25th (90

My dearest Annie

I sent the Walter Scott to Mr. Whittier* this morning. I have seldom seen any thing more interesting, more delightful than this journal. Some time I shall ask you to let me take it again, for I dared not keep it to read entirely, for who knows what moment the dear old man may go where we can't reach him with books any more, or any thing else! Karl was getting a photograph ready for poor Lily Bowditch* — she was as well as usual, but I said, "Karl, I'm afraid

[*Page 2*]

Miss Lily will be dead before you get that picture ready for her!" "O," he said, "in a week or two ^she^ shall have it!" But long before the week or two was gone she had gone whither no express could follow her! So I dared not delay a moment but sent the books the day after I opened your bundle. And many thanks, Annie dearest, for that charming bundle & all its contents! The pocket book was most welcome, mine had come all to pieces, & for all your kind thought I am most grateful. How good you are to want me to come to you & how I wish I could! But just now Karl is so poorly,

[*Page 3*]

it troubles me so much — His eyes seem to grow perfectly white & colorless & the pupil a mere black needle point, is the smallest imaginable pin head & he cannot bring them to a focus when he looks in my face — one looks one way & one another, & all his senses, sight, hearing, all, are so dulled & blurred — oh, it is so sad — I know not what to do — [only *blotted*] to have patience & to pray for more & more & more — more patience & more resignation. I am so thankful to have this little place to keep him contented & approximately happy — I give up almost the whole of the second floor to him & his endless traps —try not to mind or to think of any worries or vexations connected with him, for he cannot help any thing, poor creature.

[*Page 4*]

It is a blinding snow storm since early morning & from the harbor's mouth the foghorn has been droning its warning the whole day — now the early dusk is closing. I wonder if it snows in Boston. I am thankful not to be at the Shoals today so far from every body! Dear Annie I wish I could run in & see you this evening! But heaven only knows when I ever can leave my little corner.

About the Hunt paper* — I have grown myself so sensitive about it I dont feel now as if I could print it at all — I shall set myself to work with might & main on some thing else the moment I have finished this pile of Xmas letters, & keep my head above water with "verses," heaven save the mark! the best way I can. Goodbye my dearest dear true Annie. I shall write to Pinny* tonight. I'm glad to have her dear book. Ever your CT

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Did you read about Browning's voice* heard a year after his death, from the phonograph? It sounds like a fairy story!

Notes

Walter Scott: Thaxter refers to *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott*, (1890) first edited and published whole in 2 volumes by a Fields and Jewett friend, David Douglas. Key to Correspondents. See Scottish author, Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). This journal as shared among John Greenleaf Whittier, Celia Thaxter, Jewett and Fields.

Lily Bowditch: Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch (1808-1892), owned a cottage on Appledore. His wife was Olivia Jane Yardley (1816 - 10 December

1890); their daughter Olivia Yardley Bowditch (1842–1928), regularly spent part of her summer there. See Thaxter to Fields of 31 August 1887.

Karl is Thaxter's disabled son.

Hunt paper: American painter, William Morris Hunt (1824- 8 September 1879). Wikipedia says: "Hunt died at the Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, in 1879, apparently a suicide. Hunt had gone to the New Hampshire shore to recover from a crippling depression.... His body was discovered by his friend, New Hampshire poet Celia Thaxter."

If Thaxter ever changed her mind about publishing her essay on Hunt, this has not yet been located. Possibly parts of her work are included in Helen M. Knowlton, *Art-Life of William Morris Hunt* (1899), Chapter 17.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett. She published three books in 1890: *Betty Leicester*, *Tales of New England*, and *Strangers and Wayfarers*.

Browning's voice: Not long before his death in 1889, British poet Robert Browning (1812-1889) attempted a recording of one of his poems. See *The Public Domain Review*. "When the recording was played in 1890 on the anniversary of his death, at a gathering of his admirers, it was said to be the first time anyone's voice 'had been heard from beyond the grave'."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

James Russell Lowell to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

ELMWOOD,
CAMBRIDGE.

[*End letterhead*]

26th Decr, 1890.

Dear cruel girls,

to send me a knife, & such a pretty one too, in the very teeth of the proverb!* And a [rose *?*] knife at my time of day! All my rosebeds are mere stems & thorns. You are so far out of reach that I venture a timorous allusion to the roses in Somebody's cheeks as the most tempting I know of. But — at any rate the knife sha'n't cut our friendship.

Faithfully yours

J. R. Lowell.

Mifs S. O. Jewett*

Notes

proverb: One proverb is "One slash, two parts," which has been interpreted that when one gives a knife as a gift, this signifies slashing the bond of friendship.

Jewett: This line of text appears to have been deleted with a double line.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891. 3 letters; bMS Am 1743 (139).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

Saturday 26 [*or* 28 ?] December

[*1890*]*

Dear Mrs. Claflin

I thank you for this little book which came yesterday from town. You are always very kind to remember me at Christmas time. I am very fond of reading The Tent on the Beach, and it seems natural to associate something of Mr. Whittier's with you.*

[*Page 2*]

We had a great deal of Christmas pleasure in spite of everything! The family feast was given up, but my Mother came down to dinner with Mary* and me, and we had a great opening of Christmas bundles in the morning with Carrie and her household.*

I wonder if you know

[*Page 3*]

that Cousin Mary Nealley* died this week? We shall miss the dear little affectionate soul very much, my Mother has depended so much upon her almost daily visits, and she was the last left of the three households — four households — that I remember in childhood in my father's family. Mother seems left quite alone and of course

[*Page 4*]

[*the bottom right corner of a rectangle seems to be drawn on the right side of the top of page 4*]

we all feel that a good deal.

I hope that you had a happy Christmas — and I wish you a happy New Year.

Yours affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1890: This date is confirmed by the death date of Jewett's cousin. See notes below. However, in 1890, December 27 fell on Saturday, meaning that neither reading of her handwriting for the day would seem right.

The Tent on the Beach ... Mr. Whittier's: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. His volume, *The Tent on the Beach and Other Poems* appeared in 1867,

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Carrie and her household: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Cousin Mary Nealley: Richard Cary says: "Mary Elizabeth Jewett Nealley (1817-1890) died on December 23. She was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Lord Jewett, and the wife of the Hon. John B. Nealley, a lawyer in South Berwick and a member of the Maine State Senate. They lived adjacent to the Cushing house on Main and Academy streets, a few hundred feet from the Jewett home."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J, Ac 950.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick

Saturday afternoon

[*27 December 1890*]*

Dear Loulie

Your pillow did not get to me until last night — owing to the storm and also a little I suppose to my being away from town. I think it is a dear. I like it VERY* much, and I send you as many thanks as will make three to each of the stitches. It is to go on an old [couch *corrected*] covered with blue

[*Page 2*]

and white chintz with [shepherdesses *corrected*] and other persons for a pattern, and I hope that some time you will put your own head on it for I do not like to think of your having parted from such a pillow forever!

I thank you for your kind Christmas thought dear Loulie — indeed I thank you for all your kind thought that lasts me the year round —

I spent Tuesday night in town in a whirl of busy-ness

[*Page 3*]

and got home again Wednesday evening. A dear quaint little old cousin* of ours, a great friend of my mothers, has died this week, which has been a real sorrow — as in addition to our missing her at any rate my mother will particularly miss her visits — she had a brisk little cheerful way of "running in" — I must tell you more about her some day when we are talking together.

[*Page 4*]

- I have just finished some teasing work — the anxious revision of the Normans* book — which is to be put into an English edition. I have [felt *corrected*] hurried with it and of course there could hardly be a more distracting week of the year to undertake it in! But I am sending off the papers today — and feel much relieved in mind.

Give my love to Mrs. Dresel and keep much for yourself dear child from

Your most affectionate and grateful —

S. O. J.

Notes

1890: This year is penciled in another hand at the top left of page 1. This is confirmed by her report that she has completed revisions of *The Story of the Normans* for publication in England. See notes below.

Jewett thanks Dresel for a Christmas gift. 27 December fell on Saturday in 1890.

VERY: Jewett did not capitalize these letters, but wrote them very large in lower case.

cousin: The dying cousin was Mary Elizabeth Jewett Nealley. See Jewett to Mary Bucklin Claflin of 28 December 1890.

Normans: Jewett's *The Story of the Normans* (1887) was published in London as *The Normans,*

Told Chiefly in Relation to Their Conquest of England (1891).

See George Haven Putnam to Sarah Orne Jewett of 17 December 1890, which reveals that Jewett had very little time to complete her revisions.

I have not undertaken finding the small revisions Jewett says she made. However two have come to light. In a letter of 17 July 1887, Edward Augustus Freeman wrote to Jewett after reading the 1887 edition of *The Story of the Normans*. He said that she must rewrite page 139 to correct two errors, that she "must not call George Maniakes Maurice or place the Norse of 1040 at Amalfi instead of Melfi." Jewett must have felt embarrassment at this demand, but fortunately, she was given an opportunity to correct these problems in 1890, when T. Fisher Unwin decided to add a British edition of her book to their list of titles in the Story of the Nations series. And, indeed, she did make two changes in Chapter 7.

1887, p. 139
After a while Sicily was conquered, but the Normans were not given their share of the glory of the victories; on the contrary, Maurice, the governor, was too avaricious and ungrateful for his own good, and there was a grand quarrel when the spoils were divided.

1891, p. 139
After a while Sicily was conquered, but the Normans were not given their share of the glory of the victories; on the contrary, the Lombard governor was too avaricious and ungrateful for his own good, and there was a grand quarrel when the spoils were divided.

1887, p. 140
Twelve counts were elected by popular suffrage, and lived at their capital of Amalfi, and settled their affairs in military council.

1891, p. 140
Twelve counts were elected by popular suffrage, and lived at their capital of Melfi, and settled their affairs in military council.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A14: to Louisa Loring Dresel., 1886-1898. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March 1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Laura Elizabeth Richards to Sarah Orne Jewett

This is a most dear letter!*

Gardiner

Dec. 27th

[*1890*]*

Dear,

The Strangers, the pretty green and white strangers, wrapped in their snowflake paper came to me on Christmas morning. Thank you for them, many and many times! Most of the stories are really strangers to me, though I did know and love Captain Ball and the French, and had cried when Ma'am Stover

[*Page 2*]

gave the watch to 'Lisha.

I think the Winter Courtship is almost the funniest story you have written: "he'd lay ['em out in win'rows!" is most delightful. "The Town Poor" is most pathetic of all: poor old dears! I can see the little table with the crackers and the bit of fresh preserve. My dear! and we have more to eat every day, than is good for us.

Well, I could "go on" about each story through the book, for there is not one that does not touch the spot that thrills to laughter or tears. I rather dislike the person who was with

[*Page 3*]

you on the White Rose Road, because I wish so that it had been I. When shall we have another drive together? You must not fail to come up this spring for a little. I sometimes feel like giving a great shout, "Sarah! come up by the next train!" to see if you would not hear.

And, dear, I want to thank you for liking the verse to my Mother,* and for telling me so. The first time I lunched at the Fields', with Mamma and Mrs Bell* and the others, I sat by you, do you remember? and felt rather shy and country-mousey. But I said something — I don't know what — that you

[*Page 4*]

liked, and you just put your hand on mine a moment.

You don't remember, of course, but I do: and these words of yours are just like that kind, heartful (there might be such a word; there shall be!) touch. Because I didn't know whether the

verses really said just what I meant, so that others would know; but now I am sure. Thank you. Dear!

A happy New Year, and all bright and pleasant things, be coming to you!

[wishes *so it appears*]

Your very loving friend

Laura E Richards

Notes

letter: Written in the upper left corner of page 1, this penciled note is in a different hand, quite possibly Jewett's.

1890: This date is confirmed by Richards's references to Jewett's *Strangers and Wayfarers*, which was published in 1890. Richards names or refers to several of the stories in the collection.

mother: Richards refers to her poem, "To my Mother: Julia Ward Howe," which appeared in *In My Nursery* (1890).

Fields' ... Mrs Bell: Annie Adams Fields and, almost certainly, Helen Olcott Choate Bell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 2, Item 96, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.